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THE INCREASE IN THE FRENCH ARMY.

THE irritation of France at the success of Prussia is at last assuming a tangible form. By the middle of spring France will have enough Chassepots to arm a far larger number of troops than she now possesses; her standing army will be brought up to the respectable figure of three quarters of a million, and an elastic system of reserves will enable her, at comparatively short notice, to increase it still further. These

extra troops are wanted to enable France to keep up her position among the military nations of Europe and to teach Italians, Prussians, and all whom it may concern, that she will no longer suffer herself to be dictated to by imperious neighbours.

France has, indeed, been subjected to a good many mortifications of late, and to more than diplomatic, or, we ought rather to say, political defeat. Until the Mexican expedition

everything for some years had gone well with France. Since the accession of Napoleon III. she had gained the alliance of England; she had, with the help of England, defeated Russia in the Crimea; she had defeated Austria in Italy; and in creating Italy she had made for herself, as it seemed, a useful and moderately powerful vassal. During the last five years, however, things have not gone quite so well with the Imperial policy. In 1863 the representations of France to Russia on



THE ALPS SCENE FROM "NO THROUGHFARE," AT THE ADELPHI THEATRE.

behalf of the Poles—representations which, it is true, were not made by France alone—met with a rebuff. It was thought that France would join England in supporting the rights of Denmark in connection with Schleswig-Holstein; and when France held back persons claiming to be well informed declared that Count Bismarck, who had just been paying a suspicious visit to the Emperor at Biarritz, had made it worth his Majesty's while to keep quiet. The price of tranquillity was to be either the fortress and Grand Duchy of Luxembourg or the coal-fields in the neighbourhood of Sarre-Louis, or perhaps both those desirable acquisitions. However, Prussia dismembered Denmark; attacked and beat Austria, her co-operator in the act of spoliation; annexed small German States with the same readiness that King Victor Emmanuel, half a dozen years before, had shown in annexing the little duchies of Tuscany, Modena, and Parma—and still Napoleon pointed, but pointed in vain, to his bond. In repudiating his engagement (for that there was an engagement of some kind on the part of Count Bismarck, including a promise of compensation, can scarcely be doubted), the Prussian Minister is supposed to have pleaded unwillingness to shock the national and patriotic sensibilities of Germany. For this reason he replied at once that he could not surrender the little coal district on the left bank of the Rhine, for which France, on the conclusion of the Prusso-Austrian War, made a formal demand; and he refused to allow Luxembourg to be transferred to France when it was made known that its Grand Duke, the King of Holland, had sold it, and had actually received from the Emperor a portion of the purchase-money.

France, however, was not altogether worsted in the Luxembourg matter. She was not allowed to take possession of the territory, but at least the Prussians were compelled to evacuate the fortress. Soon afterwards she endeavoured to persuade Austria to form an alliance with her against Prussia. To this attempt Count Bismarck replied by publishing the terms of his military convention with several of the South German States. The Emperor explained in the *Moniteur* that he had gone to Salzburg with no political aim; and Count Bismarck went beyond this assertion and said it was not to be supposed for a moment that Napoleon, in visiting Francis Joseph, could have entertained the ideas generally attributed to him. When the Garibaldians made their attack upon Rome—at the instigation, it was said, of Prussia the Emperor would stand it no longer, and hastened to show that, if he was powerless against the policy of Prussia and the irony of Count Bismarck, he, at least, would not allow himself to be defied by a handful of Italian volunteers. In the opinion, however, of many critics, even among the French themselves, the easy triumph gained by their troops at Mentana is nothing to boast of. After giving way before the strong, the Government has fallen tyrannously upon the weak; and a consciousness of this fact has something, no doubt, to do with the resolution that has now been taken to raise France to the highest possible pitch of military efficiency.

The official journals of France, like the Government orators, defend the scheme for increasing the army by all the well-known arguments. France must be on a par with her neighbours; and the forces, on paper, of Prussia and Italy, equally with those of the more distant States of Austria and Russia, can be shown to be greater than any force that France could actually put in the field. The French do not want to go to war; but they do not wish to be at the mercy of any Power or combination of Powers that may attack their country; and they desire to be in a position, if necessary, to carry war into the territory of the Power assailing them. France desires to maintain her political influence in Europe, and to do that it is essential that she should have an immense number of armed men at her command; for, according to a newly-discovered theory much believed in by Imperialists, the political influence of a country is in direct proportion to its military strength. Finally, every one knows that, according to the Latin adage, "if you wish for peace you must prepare for war."

This last argument is the great one of all; but the adage on which it is based is itself very unsound. If a country really wishes for peace, it should make peace its direct, immediate aim, so that there may be no mistake about its intentions. "*Si vis pacem para pacem*" is a much more philosophical, and practically a much safer, rule than the one so often quoted. If France sincerely believed that Prussia meditated an invasion of her territory, then the increase of the French army might, no doubt, have the effect of deterring Prussia from the execution of so absurd a project, and might therefore be regarded as a means towards keeping the peace of Europe. As it is, the first result of the adoption of the new army law by the French Chambers will be to prevent the Prussians from disarming, if not to hurry them towards new armaments. When France feels quite ready to cope with Prussia, she may enjoy to her heart's content the satisfaction of reflecting on that happy condition of things. But will her proud heart content itself with that alone? Once convinced that she has enough men and enough muskets to assert her will in Europe, will she not take the very first opportunity of doing so? France and Prussia, without—now that the Luxembourg question is settled—having one acre of disputed territory to fight about, will still have abundant reasons, or at least motives, for fighting. The Prussians are quite persuaded that on the road to German unity they will, at some point or other, meet a French army; and they would rather meet it at once, we believe, than be kept in constant expectation of the encounter.

"NO THOROUGHFARE," AT THE ADELPHI THEATRE.

A DRAMATISATION of "No Thoroughfare," by Mr. Charles Dickens and Mr. Wilkie Collins, has been produced at this theatre, with one of the strongest casts which any work of the kind has had the advantage of receiving for many years. The play, though excessive in length, kept the audience intensely interested until the very last, notwithstanding that the climax of the plot is reached at the end of the fourth act. The story divides itself into two parts, one turning upon the rivalry in love of Oberreizer and Vendale, and the other and more absorbing portion resting upon the forgery committed by the Swiss and the subsequent crimes to which it gives rise. The difficulty of balancing this divided interest, as well as of placing before the eye of the spectator those intricate complications which require some care to unravel even in the study, has been managed with great ingenuity by the authors. The play is, indeed, encumbered at several points by long and needless explanations, and too little confidence has been placed in the intelligence of the audience. Some of the characters are always recalling incidents which are sufficiently intelligible without such help, and the fifth act is nearly made tedious by the attempt to throw light upon a portion of the plot which everyone already understands. But the drama as a whole cannot but prove unusually attractive, and at some stages of it the interest becomes even of an exciting kind.

The "overture" introduces us to the exterior of the Foundling Hospital, where the "veiled lady" endeavours to ascertain from the nurse the name of her forsaken child. Mrs. Billington represents the unknown mother with so much feeling as to cause some regret at her early disappearance from the play. The interior of the Foundling Hospital, with the children at dinner, and the nurse, Sally Goldstraw (Mrs. Mellon), is next displayed, and Walter Wilding is pointed out to the mother. After this an interval of twelve years is supposed to elapse. We see Mr. Walter Wilding, now a prosperous wine merchant, seated outside his office, with his lawyer (Mr. Bintrey). The entrance from a vault of the cellarman, Joey Ladle (Mr. Webster), is the signal for loud and prolonged applause; and the character is invested with so much humour and originality by the actor that it promises to become one of the most famous of his impersonations. Joey's muddled way of moralising, his intense affection for Sally Goldstraw, his admiration of her "beautiful language," and his ludicrous attempts to commit her sayings to memory, relieve the somewhat sombre tone of the drama throughout, and make the honest cellarman a personage of much greater importance than he appears in the published story.

Among the many variations between the tale (an outline of which is given in another column) and the dramatic version is one which could scarcely be avoided—namely, the disclosure to the audience from the first of Oberreizer's embezzlement of £500, and his forgery of the receipt for the money. It is also shown at the outset that he is in love with Marguerite (Miss Carlotta Leclercq), and Mr. Fechter has seldom had a better opportunity for the exercise of his peculiar talent, or made a greater use of his opportunity, than in delineating the passions and the vain struggles against an adverse fate of the Swiss. When George Vendale (Mr. Neville) first declares his love for Marguerite, Oberreizer's anger leads to a very fine scene, and the pity which he excites is doubtless to be ascribed in a great measure to the careful way in which it is made to appear that he misappropriates the £500 solely to promote the comfort and happiness of Marguerite. But it is when Marguerite avows her love for Vendale that his rage and despair burst forth in a storm which renders the spectator indifferent to the rest of the characters. When all is over—when he has tried to drug Vendale and failed, and failed likewise in the attempt to murder him—he evinces so much genuine pathos that again the rest of the action was made insignificant. For all practical purposes, Mr. Fechter was alone on the stage.

The great scene is, of course, that in which Oberreizer decoys his rival, Vendale, into the Alpine pass, and there endeavours to make away with him, and to gain possession of the forged receipt which threatens him with total ruin. The scene itself is a masterpiece of stage art, and on the first night of representation the painter (Mr. T. Grieve) was called forward to receive the deserved plaudits of the audience. Another striking scene was that in which Oberreizer attempts to steal the fatal receipt from Vendale in the Swiss inn. The clock-lock is placed in the monastery of St. Bernard, instead of in the house of a notary, as in the tale, the precious store of papers being supposed to consist of documents found on the bodies of lost travellers. Oberreizer manages to seize these papers, but only to find Vendale and Marguerite more inseparable than ever. Joey Ladle accompanies the young lady to Switzerland; and, indeed, it is owing to his superior powers of prophecy that the danger to Vendale is foreseen. Joey's eccentric love for Sally Goldstraw is properly rewarded, and his mode of paying his addresses was as irresistible to the audience as to the object of his devotions. Oberreizer alone comes to a bad end.

There are several minor parts which do not call for more than a passing notice. The play in some parts departs from the story so widely as to be entitled to rank as an entirely original production.

A SINGULAR COINCIDENCE.—The Edinburgh Workmen's life-boat, stationed at Port Logan, N.B., saved, on the 17th ult., the crew, consisting of fifteen persons, from the barque *Strathleven*, of Glasgow. On Dec. 16, 1866, when the life-boat was being exhibited in Glasgow, on the way to its station, the wife of the captain of the *Strathleven*, accompanied by her children, went to see the boat, and put an offering into the subscription-box. Exactly one year after, on Dec. 16, 1867, the captain's vessel was wrecked, and on the following morning (the 17th) he and his men were providentially rescued by the very boat his wife had contributed to support.

MR. GLADSTONE ON TRADE RULES.—A gentleman residing in Manchester, t-king exception to a passage in Mr. Gladstone's evening speech at Oldham, has written to the right hon. gentleman respecting it, and has received the following reply:—"Hawarden, Dec. 28, 1867.—Dear Sir,—It is difficult for me to correspond individually with those who may notice anything said by me in public; but I fear you might misunderstand my silence. I therefore write to say my proposition is that all limitations on the number of apprentices are a direct attack upon the property of the working class by diminishing the amount paid for their labour. Apprentices would be employed only when their labour was more efficient; the employer getting (relatively to cost) more efficient labour, would employ more of it, and pay more for it. If we consider them as paid in instruction, a larger number of skilled labourers would be reared, and the labour of adults would be more effective from having combined with it that amount of apprentice labour which freedom of choice would dictate. I have seen what I consider a respectable case made for this system of apprenticeship, trade kept abroad, and cries of protection as the expense of the community, all closely connected with this system of limiting, by arbitrary rule, the labour of the young. I apprehend there are also, in some or many trades, rules against piece-work, and rules preventing the best men from doing all the work they can in a given time. Such rules are utterly fatal as far as they go to the welfare of the labouring classes, who undoubtedly in these matters sin much more against themselves than against the rest of the community."

ALLEGED FALSE LIGHTS.—It will be remembered that a great deal of angry feeling has been excited one time and another with regard to alleged false lights being exhibited on the Durham coast, near to Whitburn. Masters of vessels coming to the Tyne who found their vessels suddenly landed upon the rocks on that iron-bound coast stoutly maintained that they had been decoyed there by lights which they mistook for Tynemouth, and the inhabitants as angrily denied that anything of the sort could have happened. But the London Trinity House, to prevent calamities of the sort recurring, undertook to erect a lighthouse on Souther Point—so it was alleged. The lighthouse has not been commenced. In the mean time, however, the old grievance has been opened up again by three or four vessels having stranded upon Whitburn rocks, this winter, instead of reaching Shields Harbour, to which their masters thought they were being guided by the lights; and the masters of these vessels allege, as the others have done, that they were decoyed there by lights which they mistook for Tynemouth. Captain Kirby, of London, but formerly trading out of the Tyne, being on a visit to his friends in the north, determined to explore the solitary and wild coast, the scene of so many shipwrecks, and try and fathom the mystery of the lights. In the course of his wanderings, he came upon a solitary hut, in Freshwater Bay, near Souther Point; and, though then uninhabited, he discovered traces that it had recently been occupied by some one; and, upon looking up the chimney, he found a piece of wreck timber, about 2½ ft. in length, but evidently broken off a piece of much greater length. On one end of it was a mass of rope-yarn and pitch and tar, similar to a pitch-pot used on board ship, but it had no appearance of having been in the water. He brought it to Shields with him, and gave it up to the secretary of the Tyne Pilotage Commission; and the subject will be brought before the board at its next meeting.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

A report lately current that Herr von Goltz, the representative of the North German Confederation, would absent himself from Paris on New-Year's Day in order not to be present at the usual reception at the Tuilleries, has proved to be unfounded. On Tuesday his Excellency had an audience of the Emperor to deliver his credentials, and used the occasion to state that the King of Prussia was eagerly desirous of maintaining and developing the relations of amity and confidence between France and the Confederate States, and also to assure the Emperor of the sentiments of sincere friendship which the King entertained towards him. The Emperor, in reply, thanked his Excellency for his gratifying assurances of the friendship of the King and expressed his pleasure in having the opportunity of confirming the good understanding existing between the two Governments.

The debate on the Army Organisation Bill continues in the French Legislative Body. All the amendments proposed by private members are systematically rejected. Last Saturday one amendment made by the commission, granting legal facilities to soldiers to contract marriage during the last three years of their service in the reserve force, was carried by 237 votes to 11.

ITALY.

The King of Italy held the usual New-Year's reception, at which the presidents and deputations from the Senate and Chamber, the Ministers, and other high officers were present. To the Mayor of Florence the King expressed his gratification at the conduct of the people of the city during "the late calamitous period," and regretted their example had not been followed in other cities. To the deputation from the Chamber of Deputies he expressed his confidence in the future, and added that he considered the position of Italy had improved within the last few months. Finally, "he hoped the Chamber would act in such a manner as to render it possible to govern, and effect all the reforms so long expected by the country."

The Ministerial crisis still continues, General Menabrea having, up to our last advices, failed to reconstruct the Cabinet.

SPAIN.

The Cortes was opened by the Queen on the 27th ult. In the speech from the throne her Majesty said that the Spanish Government had offered to France both moral and material co-operation in case it should be necessary to defend the lawful rights of the Pope.

HOLLAND.

The session of the States-General was closed on Dec. 27 by the Ministers of the Interior and Finance in the name of the King. In the speech delivered it was stated that his Majesty was about to dissolve the States-General and order fresh elections to be held, in consequence of the rejection of the foreign budget.

AUSTRIA.

The Emperor has issued two rescripts—one to Baron von Beust, the other to Count Andrássy. These rescripts relieve the Baron and the Count from the offices they have held in the separate Ministries of Hungary and Austria; and, after warmly thanking them for their services, ask them to hold office as Ministers for the whole Empire. The new Ministry for Austria is believed to be constituted as follows:—Prince Auersperg, Minister President; Count Taaffe, Deputy President, with charge of the defence of the country and of the police; Dr. Giskra, Minister of the Interior; Dr. Herbst, Minister of Justice; Herr Brestel, Minister of Finance; Dr. Hasner, Minister of Education and Public Worship; Herr Plener, Minister of Commerce; Dr. Berger, Minister without a portfolio; Count A. Potocki, Minister of Agriculture.

Austria, it seems, has forbidden the enlistment of its subjects for the Papal army. It does this on the ground that such enlistments would be incompatible with the home and foreign policy of the Austrian Government.

RUSSIA.

An Imperial ukase has been issued directing that in future the incomes of the Catholic clergy in the western provinces shall be provided by the State, and no portion of them by private individuals. Another ukase suspends the exceptional judicial administration at present obtaining in the province of the Caucasus, and introduces Russian laws.

The following official announcement was published in St. Petersburg on Wednesday:—"Numerous vagabonds hawking merchandise and furnished with Persian passports having been found roving about in Central Russia and the Caucasus, the Minister of the Interior has ordered that in future those persons only shall be allowed to take up their residence in Russia whose foreign passports have been exchanged for Russian passports."

GREECE.

A Ministerial crisis at Athens is said to have been settled by the late Ministers remaining in office. Encounters between the Turks and the Candians continue, in which the latter claim the advantage. The voyages of the steamer *Union* from Syra to Candia, with provisions, continue.

THE UNITED STATES.

The House of Representatives have passed an amendment to the Reconstruction Act introduced by Mr. Stevens, providing that only a majority of those voting, instead of a majority of registered voters, be necessary to ratify or reject the new State constitutions in the South. By a strict party vote of 111 to 32 the House has passed a resolution declaring that Congress will adhere to the Reconstruction Act, and censuring President Johnson for recommending its repeal.

Mr. Sherman, from the Finance Committee of the Senate, has reported a bill similar to the one he introduced in November, providing for the funding of the National Debt in Forty-year Six per Cent Bonds, the principal and interest payable in coin, and redeemable at the option of the Government after ten years, and to be free of taxation; and also authorising the Secretary of the Treasury to issue Forty-year Bonds to the amount of 500,000 dobs., bearing 4½ per cent interest, payable in coin at London and Frankfurt, to be sold or exchanged at par for Five-twenties, and redeemable at the option of the Government after twenty years. The bill has been laid over until after the holidays.

General Grant, by order of President Johnson, has removed Generals Pope and Ord from the commands of their respective districts, and Generals Meade and McDowell have been appointed to succeed them.

Great destitution prevails in Louisiana. It is reported that thousands are in danger of starvation.

A letter of Mr. Seward to Mr. Adams, dated Nov. 27, has been published. The Secretary announces that Lord Stanley's proposed reference to arbitration of the Alabama claims had been declined because it had been based on the condition that the Federal Government should waive its previous objections to the Queen's proclamation granting belligerent rights to the Confederacy, which condition was inadmissible.

MEXICO.

Advices from Mexico state that Juarez has sent a message to the Mexican Congress, in which he praises the United States for aiding the defeat of the European intervention, and declares that Mexico never solicited the renewal of European relations. Father Fischer has been released. The British Minister was preparing to leave.

HAYTI.

Advices from Hayti state that the revolt is increasing against President Salnave, who is accused of counterfeiting Hayti notes. General Cabral, with a San Domingo force, is marching upon Hayti. It is reported that Basseterre and Guadeloupe have been burnt.

THE WINTER is driving the wild animals in France from their retreats to the neighbourhood of the villages. A game-keeper, while going his rounds a few days back, near St. Apollinaire (Côte-d'Or), suddenly came upon two wolves. He fired the two barrels of his gun at them, killing one on the spot and wounding the other, which, however, escaped.

MR. SAMUELSON, M.P., ON INDUSTRY AND EDUCATION AT HOME AND ABROAD.

FROM the Parliamentary printing-office there has been issued the copy of a letter from Mr. B. Samuelson, M.P., to the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education, concerning technical education in various countries abroad. The hon. member was appointed by the Government on a special mission to inquire into this subject.

The first point to which Mr. Samuelson draws attention is that of the evil effect of strikes supported by trades unions. Instances are given of cases in which strikes have taken place in English factories, employed mostly by foreign firms, and the result of which was that the business of such factories was transferred to foreign countries and could not be won back again. The enforced uniform rate of wages per week to men of different degrees of skill was another retarding influence. In the manufacture of cotton and woollen machinery that has not been subject to strikes English manufacturers hold their own in foreign markets. But no doubt the inferior education of the English artisan, as compared with the artisans of the Continent generally, accounts for what is undoubtedly the fact—that in many, almost all, branches of manufacture in which complicated machinery and the latest scientific appliances are required, the workmen of the Continent are taking the lead. This is exemplified by the cases of Leeds and Bradford. In the woollen manufacture in Leeds everything is stiffened into tradition and routine; old-fashioned forms are adhered to, and even when an enterprising wool-spinner introduces improved machinery into his factory he finds that his "hands" will not, or cannot, work it to the utmost advantage. "One result is that the spinners and manufacturers of Belgium are exporting woollen yarns and cloths valued at nearly two millions annually to this country, produced from wools a great portion of which are first imported from our colonies into London and shipped thence to Antwerp." At Bradford the woollen manufacture is carried on with the newest appliances, by energetic masters, and unprejudiced workpeople, and is, consequently, a most thriving branch of industry, which has nothing to fear from Continental competition. Nottingham has suffered quite as much as Leeds; but in this case the chief cause has been the differences between masters and workmen. The trade here, in everything except cotton, lace, and net, is rapidly being transferred to France, and unemployed English lace machines, of £400 to £800 in value, have been bought by manufacturers from Calais, and are now in full operation in that town. In the hosiery and carpet trades of the Nottingham district, and in the steam-coal trade of the north of England, "Boards of Conciliation" for the settlement of differences between masters and men have been established, and are working with the happiest effects, so that the hosiers of Nottingham compete successfully with the extremely low-paid labour of Saxony. In lace curtains there has been no decline at Nottingham; in fact, quite the reverse. The success in this branch is due to the excellent local school of art. Mr. Samuelson saw beautiful designs by pupils of the school, which were being executed in one of the factories, and he was informed that the English patterns in this branch are preferred to those of France. The thriving lace factories of St. Pierre les Calais contrast most favourably with the decaying establishments of Nottingham. One of the successful Calais manufacturers said to Mr. Samuelson that the Nottingham lacemakers had relied too much on their acquired position, and had ceased to give that close attention to details without which the lace manufacture cannot be carried on. The manufacture of iron of the highest class, fit for the construction of British engines, is still almost a monopoly in England; but in France it can be obtained from a great variety of workshops, and at prices considerably below ours. "For instance," says Mr. Samuelson, "I found that the iron tires or hoops for the wheels of locomotive engines made at the Great Yorkshire works ranged in price from £11 5s. to £19 11s., while iron tires of equal quality and of corresponding weight and size, but made in France, cost only from £6 3s. to £13 4s.; and I have good reason for stating that the routine and prejudices of our railway superintendents alone prevent the latter from being more extensively introduced than they have yet been on our railways." At the great ironworks of Creuzot the coal and ores are raised on the spot, manufactured into iron, and this again into the most powerful and elaborate machinery. The works cover 300 acres, the workshops and forges 50 acres; the mines yield annually 250,000 tons of coal, and 300,000 tons of iron ore. The ironworks produce more than 100,000 tons of iron, machinery, locomotive and marine, iron bridges and viaducts, and even iron gun-boats and river-steamers, of an average yearly value of £600,000. 9950 workpeople are employed at the works of Creuzot, and receive in wages the sum, in all, of £370,000 a year. The steam-engines worked are equal to a duty of 10,000-horse power. The machinery in use is made after the best English designs; but no appliances for producing perfect work or for economising the cost of production have been omitted; and the great forge is "probably unequalled in the world." Excellent schools—both primary and special or technical—have been established in connection with the works, and by means of these unfailing supplies of skilled, scientifically-trained workmen are obtained. Mr. Samuelson went over the works of the Terre Noire Company, and saw the process of manufacturing Bessemer steel from the iron—a simplification of the Bessemer process as compared with the practice in England—which involves such economy that the Terre Noire Company are supplying one of the great French railway companies with 20,000 tons of steel rails at a price below their prime cost in England, in spite of comparatively dear fuel and ores. At these works no precaution is omitted that success may be ensured, and measurement and qualities are looked upon with as much anxiety as if the great ironworks was a chemical laboratory. "The most careful chemical daily analysis of all the raw material and products is one of the conditions of the success of the Terre Noire Company in their manufacture." At the steel works of Firminy, near St. Etienne, another modification of the making of steel is followed, and steel rails are manufactured at an extraordinary cheap rate. The ingots run from the furnace are simply rolled, and the rails produced are of so excellent a quality that the waste ends are used in the works for turning tools and chisels, without being re-melted or subjected to any other process except that of "tilting" or hammering. The works of Terre Noire and Firminy are unsurpassed in the world for economy in the production of ordinary steel. But the most marvelous steelworks in the world are those of Krupp and Essen, in the Wupper Valley, Westphalia. They consume 800 or 1000 tons of coal per day, raised from pits within the walls of the works or immediately adjoining, the cost of the coals being less than 5s. per ton. "The machinery of every department is as perfect as the magnificent products of the works would lead one to expect. The range of crucible furnaces is a sight of its kind unparalleled in the world, except, perhaps, at the neighbouring works of Bochum." At the time of Mr. Samuelson's visit, a steel 1000-pound breech-loading gun was nearly completed for Russia, and several 200 and 300 steel breech-loading guns, hooped and rifled, for the German navy. Thousands of steel breech-loading guns were in course of manufacture for all nations. Besides these, Mr. Samuelson noted a number of forced cast-steel cranked axles—one of them of enormous size for a Transatlantic steamer then being built at Greenock by the Messrs. Caird. Eight thousand men are employed in these works, and 60,000 tons of steel—more than twice the entire export of steel from the United Kingdom—are produced annually. While the Continental workmen are better educated than the workmen of Britain, they are also apparently more peaceable in disposition. "Nowhere in France are the hindrances felt which the abuse of trades unions is placing in the way of several trades in England; and this for the simple reason that unions such as we have here do not exist. There are no trades unions in the north of Germany." The workmen save their wages, and buy a piece of land, which they and their families cultivate. Thus they become attached to localities, and are interested supremely in the preservation of amicable relations between them and their employers. Strikes do not enter into their heads, though it is undoubtedly true that, while as a rule they are better educated than

British workmen, they work longer hours for considerably less pay. Mr. Samuelson, in summing up the results of his investigation and observations, says:—

I have endeavoured to give a fair though brief account of the state of primary and technical education in France, Switzerland, and Germany, as well as a very slight notice of some of its features in Belgium. I have also attempted to show by examples what is the condition of some of the leading industries in those countries. I do not think it is possible to estimate precisely what has been the influence of Continental education on Continental manufactures. That the rapid progress of many trades abroad has been greatly facilitated by the superior technical knowledge of the directors of works everywhere and by the comparatively advanced elementary instruction of the workers in some departments of industry, can admit of but little doubt. At the same time it cannot justly be said that their superior education has led our neighbours to make any striking industrial improvements. The manufacture of the more important textile fabrics certainly does not owe its present advanced position in any marked degree to Continental inventiveness. In the production of iron and steel also, if a step has been taken in advance of us as regards some peculiar though important products, this is due, except perhaps in the case of the steel castings of Bochum and Firminy, less to the development of new discoveries than to a careful and intelligent improvement of processes common to all, and to some priority in the utilisation of resources at least as readily within the reach of our manufacturers as of those of any other country. Our Dr. Percy's great work is translated into every Continental language and used as a text-book in the Continental schools, whilst the improvements lately made abroad are engaging the serious attention of our metallurgists; and I have not the least doubt that the ground which we have lost will be speedily recovered, both by our ironmasters and our engineers, unless, indeed, a return of prosperity should lead to a renewal of the contentions between masters and workmen which have caused such mischief to both. It would be an event of national importance if the iron and engine-building trades, like those which I named at the outset of this report, would establish boards of conciliation. Even as I write, I am rejoiced to learn from Mr. Mundella that the lacemakers of Nottingham have followed the example of the kindred traders of that town, and that Sheffield is inclined to imitate them. It is not by the payment of low wages, or by the premature employment and overtasking of children, that any great manufacturer can be made to prosper in this country, but by mutual forbearance and goodwill between those whose interests, though debatable and opposite in detail, are identical in the main. The cheap carriage of coal and iron on our railways is another important condition of the successful pursuit of our great manufactures. Iron ores are carried in France at rates below three-eighths of a penny per ton per mile; coal is sent from Westphalia to every part of France, Holland, and Germany at one halfpenny per ton per mile, including the use of waggons, and these rates are not unprofitable. Iron is delivered from Seraing, near Liege, into the port of London for 13s. per ton, or 2s. cheaper than from Wolverhampton. Railway managers are well aware, though under the temptation of immediate returns they sometimes overlook the fact for a time, that nothing tends more to develop general trade than a low tariff of materials. Meanwhile, we know that our manufacturing artisans are imperfectly taught, our agricultural labourers illiterate; neither one nor the other can put forth with effect the splendid qualities with which Providence has endowed our people. Our foremen, chosen from the inferior industrial ranks, have not sufficient opportunities of correcting the deficiencies of their early education. Our managers are too apt in every case of novelty to proceed by trial and error, without scientific principles to guide them; and the sons of our great manufacturers too often either despise the pursuits of their fathers as mere handicrafts, unworthy of men of wealth and education, or else, overlooking the beautiful examples which they afford of the application of natural laws to the wants of man, follow them solely as a means of heaping up more wealth, or, at the best, for want of other occupation. To the evils of such a condition not only our statesmen, but also our people, are rapidly awakening; and, the disease being once acknowledged, I believe the remedy will soon be applied. The extension of the half-time system by the Factory Acts, and the insertion of education clauses in the Workshops Act of last Session, are the commencement of a more serious movement in favour of universal elementary instruction. If the principles of that legislation are extended to agriculture, it will be a mere play upon words to argue whether primary education shall or shall not be compulsory; for no young child will be allowed to work unless it also goes to school. I cannot think that apprenticeship schools are suitable to the general industrial conditions of Great Britain. They may, however, be forced upon the employers by such trades as those at Sheffield and elsewhere, which have combined to limit the introduction of apprentices into workshops. In special cases, such as those of some of our agricultural counties, where the supply of labour is in excess of the demand, and in Ireland they could probably be introduced with advantage. But they fall properly within the province of benevolent individuals and societies, and their success will depend more than almost any other undertaking on the judgment with which they are organised and superintended. If I may venture to suggest some further measures, which may, in my opinion, be speedily and safely adopted by the State to promote education, I would sum them up as follows:—First, as to elementary education. Let no child under twelve be allowed to work until it can read and write. Make it the duty of every parent to see that his children have the means of elementary instruction. Encourage elementary schools by special grants to establish advanced classes. Assist the pupils of elementary schools who have shown remarkable ability to continue their education in a superior school. Secondly, as to technical education, revise your science minutes and abolish the limitation to working-class pupils of the capitation grants to science teachers. It is simply a stumbling-block to the weak consciences of committee men, and prevents the establishment of classes remunerative to the teachers. Pay a larger sum per head for the more difficult subjects, and thereby remove the temptation of the teachers of science schools to ride physiology and inorganic chemistry to death. Give a thoroughly scientific training in Jermyn-street to a small number of young men, chosen, if you like, in part from amongst your more promising "science teachers," in order to qualify them as professors of science. Distinguish between these and the men who merely get up one or two subjects in order to teach a science class. Supplement local efforts to establish or to extend secondary or superior scientific schools (not mere science classes) by building grants or loans, and by the endowment or partial endowment, under proper conditions, of professorships. Begin with Manchester (if Manchester is not too proud), whose citizens are trying to raise £100,000 for the enlargement of Owens College. Let one condition of assistance to a scientific school be, that a perfecting school (Fortbildungsschule) shall be affiliated to it; and of the endowment of a professorship, and that the professor shall teach in the perfecting school. Lastly, consolidate your department of education.

BABY-FARMING.—Some further disclosures relative to the practice of baby-farming were made on Monday at an inquest in the parish of St. Luke's. The illegitimate child of a soldier was placed out by its mother to nurse, and died a fortnight afterwards. The woman who took charge of the child had altogether three or four under her care, and she was wholly dependent upon the pittance she received from the parents for the support of herself and her own family. This person, advertised in a Clerkenwell paper, and, in fact, made a regular business of taking charge of these poor babies. The jury, in their verdict, expressed a strong opinion as to the necessity of Government interference in the matter; and certainly the law is bound to afford protection to infants virtually abandoned by their parents. It has been suggested that houses should be licensed for the reception of such children, and subjected to proper inspection.

ROYAL NATIONAL LIFE-BEAT INSTITUTION.—A meeting of this institution was held, on Thursday, at its house, John-street, Adelphi—Thomas Chapman, Esq., F.R.S., V.P., in the chair. Richard Lewis, Esq., the secretary, having read the minutes of the previous meeting, rewards amounting to £164 were voted to the crews of various life-boats of the institution for saving the crews of the following shipwrecked vessels:—Barque Strathleven, of Glasgow, fifteen men saved; schooner Esk, of Montrose, six; steam-ship Harmonia, of Hamburg, fifteen; sloop Christian and Charlotte, of Peterhead, four; ship Thornton, of New York, thirteen; brig John, of Hartlepool, one; and sloop Telegraph, of Port Isaac, three. The Aberdey life-boat had also brought safely into harbour the schooner Jane Sophia and the smack Hope, both of Aberystwith, with their crews, consisting of eight men; making a total of 785 shipwrecked persons rescued during the past year by the life-boats of the institution alone, in addition to thirty-five vessels saved from destruction. The Life-boat Society has also granted rewards for saving 303 persons from various wrecks by shore-boats and other means; so that the institution has contributed altogether during the past year to the rescue of 1088 lives from different shipwrecks. Payments amounting to upwards of £2000 were made on various life-boat establishments. A sailor's daughter had forwarded to the institution, through Messrs. Drummond, a fifth donation of £100. A legacy of £100 had been received during the past month from the executors of the late Mrs. Maria Deane, of Cheltenham. Bequests had also been left to the institution by the late Mrs. Maria Rawson, of Sheffield, £100; and the late E. Weston, Esq., of Leicester, £19 19s. It was decided to form a new life-boat station at Abergele, on the Welsh coast. Henry Nixon, Esq., through the Manchester branch, had generously defrayed the cost (£470) of the boat, &c. R. B. Hesketh, Esq., of Gwyrch Castle, had also liberally undertaken to build the house for the reception of the boat. Captain A. Small, examiner at the Custom House, Glasgow, had, during the past year, collected for the institution in that city and elsewhere, £450. He had for many years rendered the society invaluable co-operation in Glasgow. Reports were read from the inspector and the assistant inspector of life-boats on their recent visits to various life-boat stations on the coast. The accounts of the institution for the past year were ordered to be sent to Mr. G. C. Begbie, the public accountant, who had been the auditor of the society for the past sixteen years. A cordial vote of thanks was passed to T. Chapman, Esq., F.R.S., and Sir E. Perrott, Bart., for their able conduct in the chair at the meetings of the institution during the past year. The proceedings then terminated.

IRISH REMEDIES FOR IRISH GRIEVANCES.

THE following letter on Irish grievances and their remedies has been addressed by "a High Sheriff" to the *Times*:—

Sir,—As an Irishman, I ask leave for a space in your valuable journal, in the first place to treat of Fenianism, and in doing so to express my earnest hope that this wretched "ism" will not unjustly prejudice the minds of the English people against the Irish; and, in the second place, to give my idea of a few changes in the existing laws of this country that would go a great way towards remedying her grievances.

Being a landed proprietor, agent over extensive estates, and a magistrate, I feel I am qualified to form a fair opinion upon the present state of this country.

If a few years since, by some means, the six million population of Ireland could have been brought together and their loyalty put to some test, I venture to assert few countries could have produced a greater preponderance of its inhabitants more faithful to its laws and institutions than Ireland; but continued indifference by the English Government to the just demands of the Irish for legislative relief has of late years caused many staunch supporters of law and order to grow lukewarm, and a wretched few to start up in rebellion. Yet Fenianism is American far more than Irish. As Irish, it is simply the frenzied notions of Yankee-Irish Republican adventurers, instilled into the simple minds of a few who have nothing to lose, and who therefore become ready victims to bombastic promises of rich reward.

It pains one deeply who loves his country to read daily in the English press the wholesale abuse of poor Paddyland, because a number of the lowest scum of the earth make use of Ireland's need of prosperity to create a wretched cry of sedition throughout the land, and perform deeds which sink into a lower scale of crime than even murder. Surely, Sir, no rational Englishman can think for one moment, if he has any knowledge of this country, that either this sedition, or these lately perpetrated barbarous outrages, are in any way acquiesced in by the vast majority of the inhabitants of Ireland? From the commencement not one person who had the smallest stake in his country's welfare has been mixed up with this low misguided conspiracy.

Now, Sir, as to changes in the existing laws of Ireland. No doubt, the land question comes first, on which subject I will trouble you but little, as I acknowledge I am not satisfied as to the best method of dealing with tenants' improvements; but I would strongly urge that the tenant farmers of this country should have a legal right of obtaining leases of their holdings. In no country in the world is the occupier so completely the slave of the lord of the soil as in Ireland upon estates where the non-leasing system is pursued. The landlords are Protestants and Conservatives; the tenants Catholics and Liberals. By keeping a political axe over the slender thread by which their unfortunate tenants hold their farms, Irish landlords have made poor Paddy the cowering, timid, wretched cultivator of the soil that he is.

The next change I suggest is one easily made, and one that would give immense relief to the poorer classes of this country—viz., to strike the poor rate upon the same warrant as the income tax. Why should not the funded proprietors, the wealthy distillers, brewers, and merchants share with the struggling farmer the support of the poor? Why should the wealthiest class in the land escape their share of the burden?

There is likewise a matter as regards the administration of the poor law that might be made the subject of inquiry—viz., that where the population of Ireland has been declining the workhouses "establishment charges" have been yearly increasing, and now swamp a large portion of the rates.

My next suggestion is as regards the grand jury laws. These, in truth, are so monstrously unjust that the only wonder is how such unfair legislation could so long have been permitted. By the present system the entire expenditure on every work in the county—whether roads, bridges, gaols, &c.—is exclusively borne by the occupier, yet he has no voice in the matter, if you except his humble effort at the Sessions, where the magistrates are sure to carry all before them; if not, the cesspayer is sure to meet his defeat before the grand jury, where he has no voice at all. The simple remedy for this is, make the landlord bear his proportion of the county rate in the same manner as the poor rate.

The Church Establishment is certainly so glaring a grievance to four fifths of the people of Ireland that the sooner for all parties interested in her welfare it is swept away the better, and the sooner will intolerant bigotry on all sides be quelled. I myself, a Roman Catholic, pay a large sum annually to Protestant clergymen, for which not a soul on my estates gets the smallest benefit, nor do I believe that the recipient is aware even of the locality of the lands from which he derives his income. I do not seek to benefit myself in pocket by the abolition of the Church Establishment. My estates were purchased years since with these charges on them. What I want is value in some way or other, and not the enrichment of a number of men who, though ever so estimable in themselves, one must admit are in a false position as regards religious emolument in this Catholic country.

I will now conclude, wishing I could induce the Government to spend more of the revenues of this country upon her shores, and thus give employment to her people. If I may add one more desire, it is that Royalty should make a plunge that would take the country by storm, and, shaking off its timidity, purchase a noble residence in this green old island.

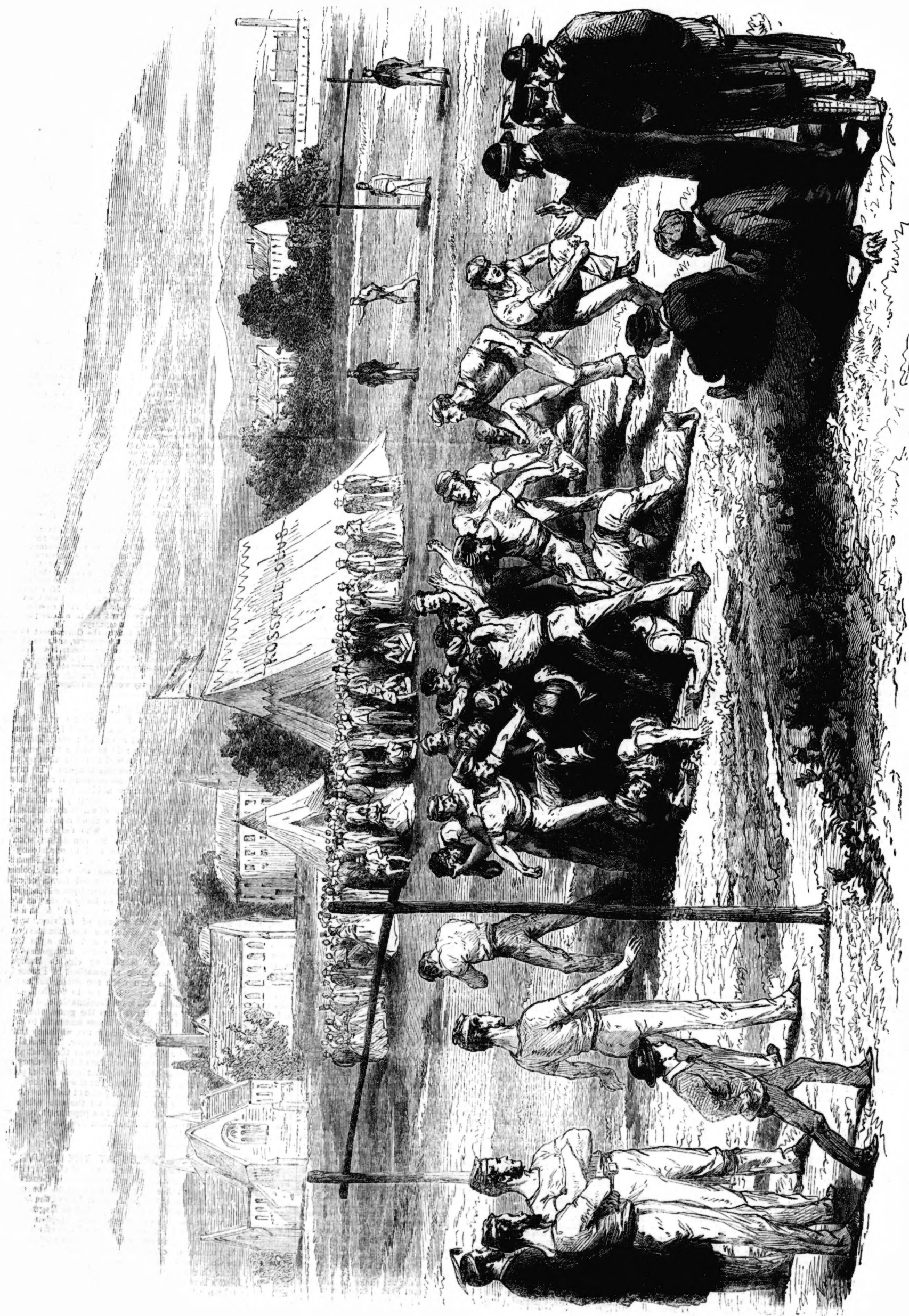
The carrying out of the above suggestions would rapidly change the state of feeling in this country, and prosperity would soon follow.

FOOTBALL.

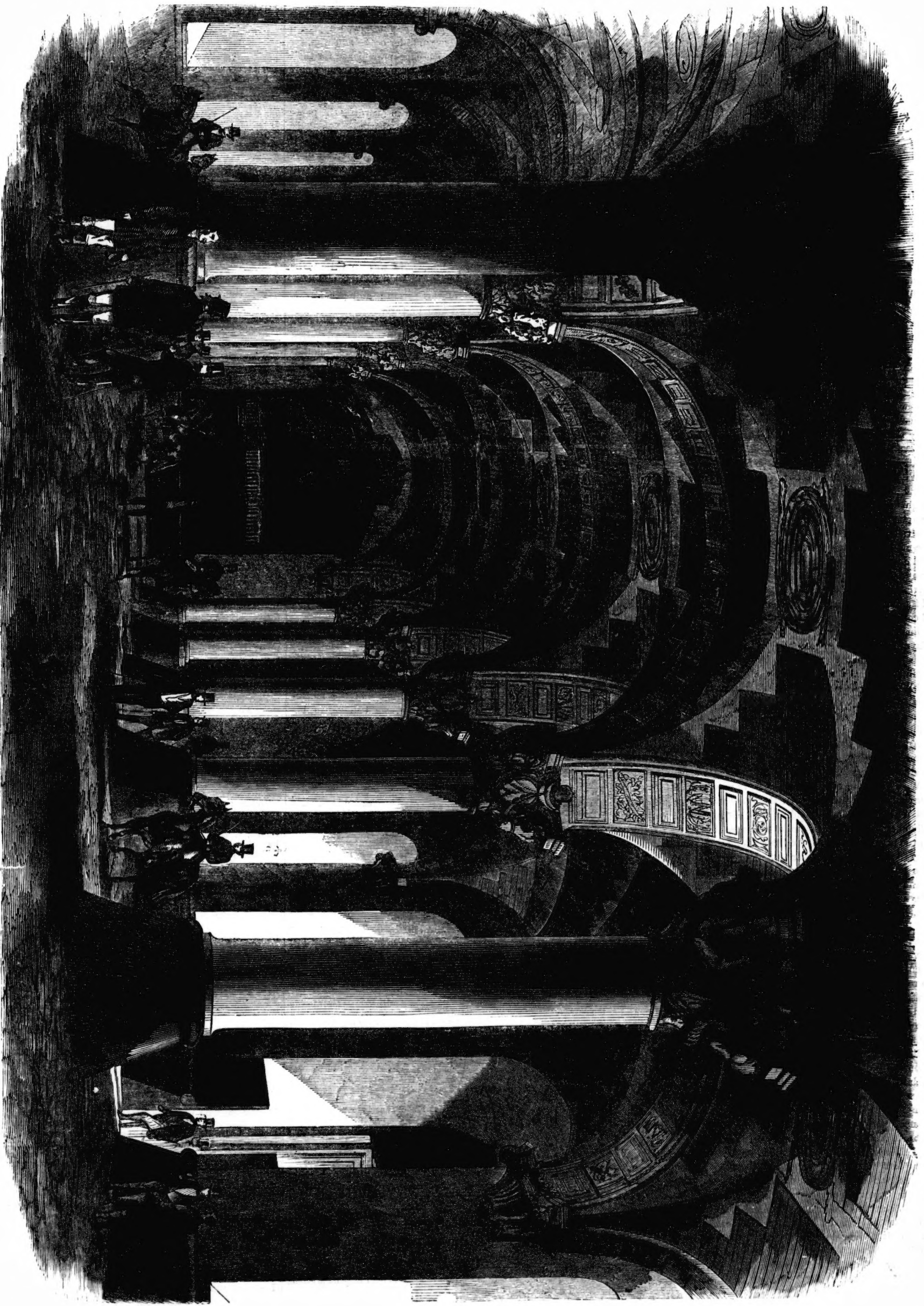
THERE are still a few good old English sports which demand pluck, and strength, and agility, as well as mutual forbearance and good temper; and assuredly football is one of them. This manly and athletic game, which may be said to divide the year with cricket and rowing, is one that cannot well be undertaken by people with weak limbs, short breath, or irascible tempers. It involves sometimes a good deal of personal inconvenience, if not "shrewd" knocks, and awkward falls and accidental kicks (for all true football players denounce the brutality of "hacking"), so that it is a thorough give-and-take pastime, the laws of which are not absolutely defined, slight differences obtaining in various localities, but one that should be supported by everybody who desires to uphold the necessity for physical training in its connection with the sort of moral influence which may be said to accompany good health, good temper, and a love of fair play. Our illustration represents one of those supreme crises at which lookers-on stand in breathless expectancy, and only old hands or calmly-approving umpires can retain their wonted self-possession. Everything begins so beautifully, so evenly, so lazily almost, as the ball bounds from side to side; but suddenly, "Whoop!" what a scrimmage, what an ugly rush, what a heap of striving, writhing, twisting, wrenching limbs! Terrible are the chances of war when all depends upon the quick eye and the agile limb of some chosen captain, from whom a dozen antagonists strive to snatch the victory. There is nothing else in Europe like a football-match. Cricket has been acclimatised in France; rowing, after a fashion, may be seen upon the Seine, but as yet our lively and active neighbours are not up to football. It will take them some time to make that sport fashionable, and longer still to follow it for its own sake, for it lacks the grace, the apparent organisation, the pose of cricket, and is less amenable to costume than either cricket and rowing. Somehow, too, we fancy that football requires English weight and English temper. It was always a favourite both here and in Scotland, and was the great game of Shrovetide, when the London apprentices played it in Finsbury Fields. At Teddington it was conducted so briskly that householders protected their windows with hurdles and bushes; but it was at the parish of Soane, near Perth, in Scotland, that the game of ball was carried on with such energy, by the married men on the one side and the bachelors on the other, that it gave rise to a popular proverb, which is sometimes applied to other matters than the game—viz., "A' is fair at the ba' o' Soane!"

THE IMPERIAL STABLES AT THE LOUVRE.

FOR some time past new stables for the stud of the Emperor of the French have been in preparation, under the direction of General Fleury. The entire establishment has now been removed to the completed edifice on the Isle of Swans; and as the old stables of the Louvre will soon be among the things of the past, we publish an Engraving of the grand portico, which has in its time been a meeting-place of so much interest to those who professed to be judges of horseflesh, not in its culinary, but in its living, adaptation. There are still about thirty horses and a number of carriages retained at the Louvre for the service of the Court, and the Master of the Horse will still have his official residence there. The Prince Imperial has generally taken his riding lessons here, under the charge of Mr. Bachou; and there will always be a good deal of work going on. But the place will have lost its public interest; the queer structure, the basement of which is a sort of cave, from which the establishment itself rises into a first story, with a considerable incline for the horses, will be eclipsed by the more modern arrangements of the new stables, and the fine granite columns, the bronze ornamentation, the equestrian statue of the Emperor, and the grand oak door leading immediately to the manège, will no longer be sources of attraction to fashionable loungers.



WINTER AMUSEMENTS: FOOTBALL.



THE IMPERIAL STABLES AT THE LOUVRE, PARIS.

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SIR RICHARD MAYNE AND THE POLICE.

THERE is no use in mincing the matter any longer. It is high time that Sir Richard Mayne were relegated to private life—in other words, the Chief Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police must be “allowed to resign.” (That, we believe, is the proper official phraseology in which to couch such an opinion.) Under his command, the force is rapidly becoming a scandal and a by-word. The police do not fulfil their proper functions, while they are over-diligent in matters which were better let alone. To protect the persons and property of the lieges—that is, to prevent the commission of crime—is, one would fancy, the primary purpose for which a police force is instituted; but the metropolitan police, under the tuition of the Chief Commissioner, appear to have long considered prevention but a minor part of their business. They seldom seek to hinder the criminal from carrying out his nefarious designs; they devote their energies mainly to catching him afterwards—if they can. But even in that line they are not over-successful, for cases of detection are about as rare as roses in December—at least, that is so whenever the affair in hand is of special importance.

We are willing to admit that the metropolitan police have done good service in the past, though in many respects they might have done much better. Nor will we deny that there are good men in the force, both in superior and subordinate positions. But there is no getting over the facts that they are neither so efficient nor so successful in preventing crime and detecting criminals as they ought to be. And, as an army is what its commander makes it, we are compelled to attribute the deficiencies of our police army to the shortcomings of its chief. A long course of blundering and failure—faults of commission, as well as of omission—seems to establish this point beyond dispute. Whatever may have been Sir Richard Mayne's original recommendations for the post he occupies, it is plain that years of routine and irresponsibility have spoiled a naturally not very brilliant intellect, and induced habits of domineering in small matters and of wrong-headed official conceit that make him unfit to cope with special emergencies. All this is highly detrimental to the public interests; for, constituted as the population of the metropolis now is, and including as it does so large a number of criminals *in posse* or *in esse*, an inefficient police is about the greatest evil with which society can be afflicted.

We should be loth to bear hardly upon a public servant because of one blunder, even though that blunder were of a grave character, if his conduct were distinguished by general efficiency. But Sir Richard's unfitness has been exhibited on too many occasions to be longer tolerated. It is not necessary to go far back in order to find cases that prove our point. The last two years have supplied sufficient items on which to found an indictment for incapacity against Sir Richard Mayne and his management of the police force under his control. In 1866 we had the Hyde Park disturbances, which Sir Richard provoked by officious and indiscreet interference with what, but for him and the measures he prompted, would have been a harmless, if not very wise, demonstration; and then, having provoked violence, he blundered in his efforts to repress it; thus teaching two very undesirable lessons—first, that Government had no power to carry out its behests, and thereby became ridiculous and contemptible; and, second, that the roughs, rowdies, and scoundrels of London, by acting in concert, have the peace and safety of this metropolis at their mercy. That lesson they were not slow to act upon, as has been proved on several memorable occasions, such as the march of the City Militia through the streets last summer, and again only a few weeks ago after disorderly Fenian sympathisers' meetings on Clerkenwell-green, when in both instances robberies with violence were committed in the streets in broad day without effective let or hindrance from Sir Richard and his myrmidons. Were there nothing else against him, the very fact that such scenes could be again and again repeated within his jurisdiction is sufficient to condemn the Chief Commissioner and his system of management. Then there was the “bungling legislation” of last Session on the subject of cabmen and costermongers—legislation, it is generally understood, mainly inspired by Sir Richard Mayne, who, it seems, is even incapable of correctly interpreting the rules as to cab fares which he himself dictated. Next, crimes of the most atrocious nature are committed in the public thoroughfares, under the very noses of the police, and the perpetrators escape detection. For instance, the murderers of the poor Guardsman Macdonnell are still undiscovered, as are the persons who attempted to murder the policeman Saunders in St. Pancras. These are only specimens of many failures that have recently attended the efforts of the police to discharge

the one part of their duty to which they give much heed—the detection of criminals. All our detectives now seem good for is to imitate Lord Burghley—shake their heads, look wise, and keep silence, or talk about “a clue” and “information I have received;” said “clue” and “information” rarely leading to any result save the production of untrustworthy witnesses—like the woman Jennings, who appeared against Groves in the Bloomsbury murder case—and who, for obvious reasons, are allowed to escape unpunished for their perjury. As for the common constables, many of them occupy themselves in hunting costermongers, entrapping cabmen, and watching lest publicans who do not bribe them should sell liquor in forbidden hours, rather than in guarding the peace and safety of the city committed to their charge.

But the culminating act of incapacity on the part of Sir Richard Mayne is the terrible fiasco in Clerkenwell; for upon him we do not hesitate to charge the whole responsibility of permitting that outrage to be perpetrated. As we have already said in these columns—and we believe we were the first to do so, though that is of little moment—with the warnings he had received and the examples of Fenian crimes that were before him, the Chief Commissioner of Police ought to have taken such measures as would have rendered the commission of that crime impossible. He was told that the Governor would take care of the inside if the police looked to the safety of the outside of the prison; and yet all Sir Richard Mayne did was to set two or three disguised officers to watch “suspicious characters.” There was, apparently, no notion of stopping the execution of the foul plot. Detection was the only thing contemplated; and so clumsily was that gone about, that the actual perpetrator of the crime escaped, and is even yet undiscovered. Nay, more, it appears that the ordinary constables on duty in the neighbourhood of the House of Detention were not even informed that anything extraordinary was apprehended, and, of course, were not more alert than usual. This is proved by Edward Moriarty, a constable injured by the explosion, who, at the inquest on the bodies of some of the sufferers, deposed as follows:—

I was on duty on the 13th inst., about twenty-six minutes before four, in Meredith-street, Clerkenwell, being on my ordinary beat. The witness Bird came up and said, “Policeman, there's something placed against the wall of the House of Detention, and boys playing in front of it.” I went towards the spot, and on approaching saw four boys and a woman standing in front of something against the prison wall. The boys moved away, and I passed by the woman and saw a barrel covered with a sack, one end facing the wall and the other the houses opposite. I went within three feet of it. Fire was streaming out from the end facing the road; it was a blue jet, as thick as my wrist. I stepped back a few yards, when the barrel exploded and I was struck down insensible. . . . One side of Corporation-lane is in my beat, and I pass it every half or three quarters of an hour. I was on duty in the morning and went on again a little after three, so that I had not been into the lane since the morning. I was going towards it when Bird spoke to me. I had heard nothing about an attack on the prison.

We will not inquire into Sir Richard Mayne's reasons for taking such meagre precautions after the warnings he received—that is the duty of his official superiors, if he acknowledges any; but, after the facts we have stated, we think there can be but one opinion—namely, that the sooner Sir Richard Mayne retires from the command of the metropolitan police the better. He is now, we believe, in his seventy-second year, and has been Commissioner of Police since 1829—that is, for thirty-nine years. Such being the case, can we be surprised at his falling off in vigour and his unreadiness to cope with unusual emergencies?

“JOSHUA THOMSON'S CHRISTMAS EVE.”—We are requested by Mrs. Macquoid, the authoress of the above-named story, to inform “Delta” that if his proper name and address were furnished to her, she would be prepared to consider his proposal for dramatising the story; but, of course, she decidedly objects to such a thing being done by anyone without her consent.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH arrived at Melbourne on Nov. 23. There were great rejoicings in consequence.

PRINCE ARTHUR AND PRINCE CHRISTIAN will visit Lord Derby at Knowsley next week. The Mayor of Liverpool having invited their Royal Highnesses to visit that town during their stay, a grand ball is to be given in honour of their visit on the 9th inst.

THE REV. JOHN JAMES HORNBY, M.A., Brasenose, Oxford, and second master of Winchester College, was, on Tuesday, elected head master of Eton College.

THE SULTAN, during his visit to Paris, saw a wedding procession in the streets, and desired to speak to the bride. On the interpreter stating that a Grand Seigneur wished to speak to her, she said that Turks frightened her, and declined the honour. The Sultan then replaced on his finger a ring worth £400 which he had intended to present to the bride.

HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT have declined the proposals for reducing the duty on Portuguese wines imported into Great Britain, which have been submitted by the Portuguese Government as a basis for the negotiation of a commercial treaty between this country and Portugal.

THE CAPITAL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA has been removed to Victoria.

LORD ST. LEONARDS has addressed a long letter to the Fenians with a view of showing how impossible it was that their scheme could be assisted by their operations in this country, and that whatever chance they had of doing mischief here has been destroyed by the fatal explosion at Clerkenwell.

MR. THOMAS CARLYLE has been made a justice of the peace for the county of Dumfries.

MR. BARROW, her Majesty's Consul at Kertch, has been relieved from the charge of the Crimean cemeteries, which are now placed under the superintendence of Colonel Gordon, at Constantinople.

THE PARIS COMMITTEE OF THE VOLTAIRE STATUE have decided by a majority to have an enlarged reproduction of the one by Houdon, the *chef d'œuvre* which is placed at the entrance of the Comédie-Française.

“BROTHER STANISLAUS,” a Roman Catholic, and previously one of the order of “Brother Ignatius,” has made a public recantation of Romanism.

THE LIVERPOOL GAS COMPANY have announced their intention of raising the price of gas from 3s. 3d. to 3s. 7d. per 1000 ft., owing, so they state, “to the increased price of canal coal.”

EXPERIMENTS made at Shoeburyness have shown that the Gibraltar, Malta, and Bermuda fortification shields are worthless, a very few rounds smashing them up.

RECENT STATISTICS show that there are 3800 Romanist churches in the United States and 54,000 Protestant. Florida, once entirely Romanist, has now but one church of that denomination to every eighteen Protestant.

THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME HAYRE EXHIBITION have acceded to the request received from England to extend the time for application for space until Feb. 15, 1868.

AN AVALANCHE OF SNOW came down, a few days back, at Unterschachen, in the canton of Uri, Switzerland, and carried away a house and its barn. A woman and child and all the animals were swept off; one man, the brother of the proprietor, and a female servant, escaped, although it is not mentioned in what manner.

MR. DICKENS has agreed to write a story for the pages of the *Atlantic Monthly* during the present year. The story will be entitled “George Silverman's Explanation.” Mr. Dickens will contribute to another New York serial, *Our Young Folks*, a “Holiday Romance,” to be illustrated with large full-page woodcuts by John Gilbert.

THE CAPTIVES IN ABYSSINIA, according to reports from Massowah, have had their chains removed, and there is a chance of their release. The advance portion of the British expedition is now on Abyssinian ground.

KANSAS is receiving large numbers of cattle from Texas, which are driven the whole distance, six hundred and fifty miles, through excellent grazing country.

TWO MASTS, apparently belonging to a water-logged ship of 600 tons, were noticed to be sticking twenty feet above the surface of the sea, eighteen miles S.W. of Eddystone, on Dec. 21, when they were passed by the Avon, which has arrived at Gravesend.

BARNUM AND VAN AMBURGH'S MENAGERIE, when travelling on the railway between Montgomery and Mobile recently, was upset and tumbled down an embankment. Two tigers, two bears, and a hyena escaped, and began fighting over the carcass of a deer. The contest lasted four hours and was described as frightful. The animals were then re-captured.

A CHURCH AT BRIGHTON, occupied by extreme Ritualists, was under going restoration lately, when one of the workmen employed, ascending the pulpit, exclaimed, “I publish the bans of matrimony between this church and the Church of Rome.” “And I,” said another artisan, turning towards the first speaker, “forbid the bans.” “On what ground?” inquired he of the pulpit. “Cos the parties is too near akin,” was the reply.

THE CORAL MERCHANTS OF TORRE DEL GRECO, who, when the eruption of Mount Vesuvius commenced, had removed the greater portion of their merchandise, have now begun to bring it back, all danger being considered at an end.

TWO PERSONS were challenged by a sentry at Osborne the other day, and, being unable to give the countersign, were marched off to the guard-house. One of them was a Prince on a visit to the Queen, and the other her Majesty's gamekeeper.

A DISPUTE has arisen between the South-Eastern and South-Western Railway Companies, and on Wednesday last all trains between the Waterloo terminus of the South-Western and the Cannon-street station of the South-Eastern were discontinued.

A MAN NAMED ETHAN ALLEN was recently executed at Montreal for a brutal murder. Before his death he frequently said that he would die with a smile on his face, and actually did so, the smile remaining on his countenance after death. He had been engaged with the Fenian raiders at one time.

THE NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS AND MEN of the 43rd Light Infantry who were entitled to the Borda and Kirwee prize money received their first instalment on the 24th ult., at Aldershot, a private's share amounting to £50 and a sergeant's to £100. About 120 non-commissioned officers and men received the above amounts, and in the afternoon of the same day eighty of the recipients went on furlough.

A PAPER called *Les Antilles*, published at Martinique, having received two warnings, announced to its subscribers that it would henceforward give up controversial politics, and, instead of leading articles, would print elegant extracts from the French poets. Its next number contained La Fontaine's fable of the “Wolf and the Lamb;” whereupon the governor of Martinique, accepting the fable as a personal insult to himself, suspended the unlucky journal for a month.

A STRIKE, it is feared, is about to commence in the South Yorkshire iron trade. The masters have reduced the wages ten per cent., although, it is alleged, there has been no reduction in the price of iron. At an important meeting of the ironworkers, held at Rotherham on Tuesday, the chairman counselled submission on the ground that the men were not able to fight their employers with any hope of success. The great majority, however, resolved upon a strike, and much distress is anticipated as a consequence of this decision.

AN EPIDEMIC OF TYPHOID FEVER has suddenly broken out in the village of Terling, in Essex. Whole families are attacked with the disease, which is of great severity. Dr. R. Thorne Thorne has been sent down by the Privy Council, and we understand that the main cause of the outbreak is contamination of the drinking water. A thorough investigation of the nature and causes of the disease will be made by Dr. Thorne, who will report the result of his labours to the medical department of the Privy Council.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

I VENTURE to prophesy that the Liberals will be in power again before long. A Tory friend of mine, reputed to be more than ordinarily sagacious, says that the Conservatives “are in for years.” I don't believe a word of it. The only chance they have of keeping in is that they should show themselves to be very good administrators. If they could achieve this character and inaugurate grand reforms in the two most important departments of the State—the War Office and the Admiralty—the hostility of the Opposition might be mitigated. But what chance is there of this? What can we expect from such men as Sir John Pakington at the War Office and Mr. Corry at the Admiralty? They may be honest enough, but they have not capacity enough. To clean out those Augean stables you must have an intellectual Hercules. Besides, I do not know that these men can comprehend the evils of the systems in these two departments. It requires a good deal of mental power to do that. But if they can comprehend them, they certainly have neither the courage nor the ability to reform them. Hardy is a reasonably good Home Secretary. But there are plenty of men in the House who would do the work as well. Lord Stanley is popular as Foreign Secretary, but his policy is purely negative. Sir Stafford Northcote is a very commonplace Indian Secretary; some say a failure, but it is hardly right to say that yet; and as to the other heads of departments, most of them are little more than ciphers. There is little hope, therefore, that the Conservatives will keep down opposition by their successful departmental administration. But they will not be ousted on any departmental question. The time is not come for departmental reform. We do not yet know enough about the working of the departments to attempt efficient reform. Thanks to men like Mr. Seely, we are getting to know more and more every year; and we may hope that in a few years, with a reformed Parliament, we may go to work with pick and shovel, and clean out these Augean stables. But plenty of other questions will turn up, on which the Conservative party will be compelled to fight. Foolish people imagine that all the great questions are settled, and that really there is no reason why the two parties should not coalesce. I hear this inane gabble every day. The truth is that the gravest questions have yet to be settled—questions which, on account of their gravity and the difficulty of settling them, have been silently passed by and postponed until a reform of Parliament should introduce a stronger force of democratic power into the House. Barring accident, I will give the Conservatives another year clear. Some sanguine politicians hope that the Conservatives will attempt to deal with such subjects as education apart from priestly control; the Irish Church; the Irish land question, &c. They may possibly make the attempt, but if they do they will assuredly fail. These are the very citadels of Conservatism. In an evil hour their chief persuaded them to surrender the outworks; but, depend upon it, the citadel will be desperately defended to the last.

I have said that we are every day getting to know more of the interior working of the departments. Here is a little peep, as it were, through a hole in the wall, into the India Office. A return moved for by Mr. Laird last August has just come to my hands. The motion was for “a return of the cost of cables, anchors, and mooring chains purchased for the Indian Department since January, 1865, and (mark this) a copy of any contract specification, or schedule of prices, stating whether public competition was invited and tenders duly advertised for in the usual manner.” The return, on the face of it, of the cost of the cables, &c., is satisfactory enough. The total amount paid in 1865-6 is £28 538 17s. 3d., and on this nothing need be said here. But, in answer to the second demand, we have this astounding confession, “No contract specification or schedule of prices regarding such supplies are in existence, and public competition was not invited.” We are, therefore, left to suppose that the seller sent in these articles without a word said as to price, and, as it would appear, without an invoice, for an invoice is, to all intents and purposes, a schedule of prices. I should suppose, though, that the goods were delivered at the prices at which Messrs. Brown, Lennox, and Co. deliver anchors and cables to the Admiralty. What the prices of chain cables are may be seen in a copy of a report of a committee on metals, made in 1845, but delivered to members of Parliament quite lately, in compliance with an order made by the House in June last. The average gross price in 1845 was, as near as may be, £1 4s. 8d. per cwt.; from this a reduction of 27 per cent was, according to contract, to be made, leaving the average net price about 16s. 9d. per cwt. But at the bottom of this schedule there is this curious memo-

random: "At present, in consequence of the increased price of iron, £4 10s. per ton is to be added to the above prices." Four pounds ten per ton is 4s. 6d. per cwt., which, added to 16s. 9d., brings the net average price to £1 1s. 3d. Now, my readers may ask why I bother them with these prices. Well, it is that I may ask two questions: 1. When did iron take the amazing leap upwards of £4 10s. per ton? 2. When iron fell again was this addition taken off; for remember there has been no fresh contract, as I understand, since 1845. The contract, I am told, began in 1841, and is still running. If this addition has not been taken off, the contractors must have netted very large profits; for the total amount of payments made to them from 1841 to 1864, both inclusive, was £541,857. As to anchors, it has been asserted in print, and never contradicted, that foreign Governments, who deal largely with English makers, pay much less than the English Government pays for "anchors identically similar, as highly finished, subject to the same proofs and tests, and made in exact conformity with Admiralty specifications, under the inspection of officials from her Majesty's dockyard, Woolwich." Moreover, it is alleged that the anchors supplied by the Admiralty are not so good as they should be. Here is an extract from the evidence of Admiral Sullivan, given before a Parliamentary Committee, to the point:—

There has been no objection so strongly felt in the service with respect to material as the inferiority of the "Admiralty anchors" supplied to the Fleet.

And in a letter addressed to the Editor of the *Times*, May 2, 1862, the Admiral says:—

In the Baltic, 1854, most of the vessels of the in-shore squadron broke their Admiralty anchors, some as many as two and three out of four bows. In one surveying vessel we broke one set of anchors in six months.

That there is something behind this cable contract not fair and square seems to be certain from the following fact. In March last Mr. Seely caught the Admiralty Secretary napping, and got a return ordered which would have told everything. But when Lord Henry Lennox went to his office he got a nudge that wakened him up to see that he had done a most unbecoming thing; and so in the evening he got the unsuspecting member for Lincoln to consent to allow the order to be discharged, and it was discharged. But since then Mr. Seely, who for the time was asleep, has wakened up, and next Session, in spite of official blandishments, the return will be moved for, and, no doubt, obtained.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES.

So excellent, so fresh, so full of subtle and daring speculation, and withal so full of the most artful-artless humour, is Mr. Arthur Helps's story of "Realma" in *Macmillan*, that I feel as if that admirable magazine ought to have the first place in the list this month. "Realma" may justly be called a "story;" but it is rather a quaint parable or realistic fantasy, interrupted or interjected—scarcely interpreted!—by conversations, in which our old friend Elmsmere plays his old part. Nor is the gentle shade of a certain "Gradgrin" absent. Now, here's a challenge. How many of the readers of "Realma" will find out the shade of "Gradgrin" in the last instalment of the story? This number of *Macmillan* contains a letter of Sir Walter Scott, found among the papers of the late Wilhelm Grimm, and sufficiently curious. If (p. 195) Mr. Lewes calls Ferrier's System "a lonely obelisk," it is indeed a curious mistake. But how often one has to notice that very acute people (and who more acute than Mr. Lewes?) do not know an old friend in a new dress!

Now for *Blackwood*—for once taken out of its order. "Brownlows" has been called dull reading; but it must be a spoiled appetite that does not relish it. Sara is almost perfect. Of "Linda Tresselt" I have before spoken well. The great feature, however, in *Blackwood* for January, 1868, is an "Address to Working Men, by Felix Holt." Perhaps, Mr. Editor, you may think it well to say something about this Address yourself another day, so I will simply say here that part of its drift may be roughly put in Mr. Carlyle's well-known counsel—"Go and reform yourself, my friend, and then there will be one rascal less in the world;" and that all it seems to me to want is warmth, colouring, and *motif*, or elasticity.

In the *Cornhill* there is one paper—that on "Richardson's Novels"—which may well serve to illustrate the difference between clever, good writing and the writing of a man who has genius, of which his cleverness is only the servant. The author one guesses in a moment, and a happier criticism he never wrote; it will make you roll with laughter, too. But I must entirely and most decisively differ from the remark on page 67 about the orthodoxy of Lovelace. There is no reason whatever, in the nature of things, against making a scoundrel also an orthodox believer, or even against making him rebuke sceptics. Nor is it true or even plausible that sceptics and latitudinarians are usually immoral. I have always thought it a strong "point," made by Richardson, that Lovelace should be a "believer." As Wordsworth said of the function of the Fool in "King Lear," it adds a terrible wildness to the distress. If the accomplished author of this paper should see these lines, as I hope he will, I boldly request him to think over the case of Balaam, for instance, and reconsider this particular criticism on Richardson's great story of "Clarissa Harlowe." "Garibaldi's Last Campaign" will be read with eagerness, and I especially call attention to the last page. Mr. Matthew Arnold on "Anarchy and Authority" is—Mr. Matthew Arnold. If he would really keep to the work he says he sets himself of "trying to make his notions clearer and more intelligible by means of example and illustration" (p. 40), he would at least avoid such an astonishing piece of inconsequence as nearly the whole of page 47. Reduced to its lowest terms, it is a frank avowal of the doctrine of a "Central Infallibility" in a new shape.

By-the-way, this reminds me that, in noticing the *Fortnightly* last time, I omitted all reference to Mr. E. S. Beesly's curious (as well as laborious and interesting) paper on "The Emperor Tiberius." The sly reference to Governor Eyre's "long walk" on page 640 tickles one; but it does not make one laugh at Mr. Beesly, as does the lugubrious passage on page 641—"Since then he had not known what it was to have a home." Poor Tiberius! it is bad to be homeless; but he has been dead such a long while that we find it hard to feel for him, even in the interests of justice. Just think of an essay to whitewash one of the prehistoric stone-whittlers!

But, Sir, there is a medium; and the dead are not to be slandered any more than the living; or even recklessly criticised. In *Saint Pauls* the paper entitled "Madame Tallien: a Biographical Sketch," is simply ferocious. I sincerely hope the writer of it may read these remarks, which will let him know that at least one living person thinks that, and all similar writing, an outrage. If the author of it had known Madame Tallien with even such personal, watchful knowledge as a tutor, a husband, or a gaoler, might perhaps possess (I say "perhaps," because the nearest do not always know most), he would have no right to mangle the corpse of even an equivocal reputation in that way. There is a whole library of kind wisdom on page 424 (in another paper), quite applicable to this case, by-the-by. The remainder of the magazine is as good as a magazine can well be; and there are two illustrations, both by Millais.

London Society gives us, on page 1 of the present number, a woodcut of two lovely girls, in whom, however, a slight hardness of the nostrils goes far to spoil otherwise sweet faces. The artist deserves praise (if he intended it) for the subtlety with which he has made the busts of these beautiful twins "melt into" each other. There is a way of looking at the picture in which a part of the bosom of the lady to the left may be taken as completing that of the lady to the right (these are "twin roses on one stem"). The author of "The Piccadilly Papers" observes that Tennyson's "fine poem of 'Locksley Hall' is, in parts, rather unintelligible, but is all the finer for that." (!) I have just re-read "Locksley Hall" with the nicest care, and cannot find a single line that a young lady of sixteen could very well stumble at. What next? Why, the following specimen of quotation:—"Thus," says the critic who finds "Locksley Hall" in parts rather unintelligible, but all the finer for that, "Thus, we realise the thought of the poet:—

I falter where I firmly stood,
And fall, with all my weight of cares,
Upon the earth's dark altar-stairs,
That slope through darkness up to God.

If Mr. Tennyson read this quotation, he would tear his hair. In four lines there are four words wrong, to say nothing of the mis-placings, and the thoroughly original repetition of the word "dark." Here is the original:—

I falter where I firmly trod,
And falling, with my weight of cares,
Upon the great world's altar-stairs,
That slope thro' darkness up to God, &c.

But that is not the worst. No, Sir; in the same number of *London Society* another writer on "Sounds in the Night" (p. 37), says, "How true is that line

Slowly the casement grows a glimmering pane,
to those who with weary eyes watch for the light and long for the morning!" Oh! Mr. Editor, these things make me howl! Here is the original:—

Ah! sad and strange as in dark summer dawns
The earliest pipe of half-awaken'd birds
To dying ears, when unto dying eyes
The casement slowly grows a glimmering square;
So sad, so strange, the days that are no more.

The first of our misquoting friends may ride off on the plea that he simply spoke of the poet's "thought;" but the second expressly says his "words." Such is life, Sir; and, "by the living jingo," I wish it wasn't.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

The Christmas theatrical season has set in with more than its usual severity. Covent Garden, Drury Lane, the Lyceum, Astley's, the Surrey, the Holborn, and all the East-end houses, have made pantomime the prominent feature in their playbills. The Strand and the Haymarket have two new burlesques; the Royalty continues to prosper on "Black-Eyed Susan;" and an operatic extravaganza is in preparation at the Queen's. A three-act comedy has been produced at the Haymarket, a powerful drama at the Adelphi, a five-act comedy at the Prince of Wales's, and a two-act comedy at the New Royalty. Altogether, your Theatrical Lounger has had a hard time of it lately, and his work is not yet done.

The COVENT GARDEN pantomime is, of course, a magnificent production as far as scenery and dresses are concerned, though I do not agree with the general verdict that the transformation scene is particularly good. By-the-way, there is—or will be next Christmas—a capital opportunity for a scenic artist to distinguish himself in a new description of transformation scene. We have been dosed *ad nauseam* with fat fairies hanging on to cast iron leaves; and it is many years since we felt any surprise at finding a cumbersome, unwieldy excrescence develop into a cluster of plain women with red noses and bunioned feet. The existing system of transformation scenes has been worked to death, and a novelty in this department of scenic art would be welcomed, I think, even by an indiscriminating holiday public. A beautiful fairy landscape—something in the nature of Martin's "Plains of Heaven"—a scene suggestive of enchantment, but still retaining the salient features of an actual landscape—would be an immense relief, after fifteen or twenty years of crimson tinsel, red foil, and hanging "extra ladies." The Covent Garden pantomime is well written by Mr. A. Beckett, and he tells his tale in a neat, concise manner. There is, perhaps, a rather too evident straining after puns, which go for nothing in a pantomime; but, on the other hand, his rhymes are good and his metre generally correct. The ballet department is simply perfect. The only fault that I can find with the pantomime is that it is much too long, not through any fault of Mr. A. Beckett's, but simply because a quantity of irrelevant "business" is introduced by the two Paynes. This "business" is admirable in itself, but, taken in conjunction with the six or seven long scenes which precede it, it becomes wearisome before it is finished. Miss Sheridan is a gallant Robin Hood, and Mr. Clarke and Mr. F. Payne are funny as the two injured Babes in the Wood; but, to my thinking, Mr. Clarke, or any other actor, in girl's clothes is not a pleasant sight. The comic scenes are full of bustle and animation.

Of the LYCEUM pantomime I cannot speak in terms of unqualified praise. The scenery is not good, and the story, although it is clear enough in the book, is hopelessly confused on the stage. Many irrelevant elements have been introduced into it, and many important matters are altogether omitted. Moreover, the scenes do not appear in the order in which they are printed in the book, and Miss Caroline Parkes introduces a parody on "Not for Joe," which, in the matter of utter imbecility, has probably no rival. Here is a verse of it, as nearly as I can recall it:—

We've Wigginses and Sprigginses,
And many Smiths we see;
But of all the Smiths we ever saw
There's only one E. T.
(Silly) Not for Joe! &c.

It is only fair to the author to say that he is not responsible for this imbecility. Mr. Smith had only had ten days' possession of the stage of the Lyceum Theatre; and, considering the "heavy" character of the piece, he may be said to have accomplished wonders in producing it at all. In point of fact, he has attempted to do more in ten days than he could reasonably hope to have accomplished in as many weeks. The pantomime is well acted. Miss Furtado and Miss Goodall (who has a marvellously fine voice) sing charmingly, and Miss Minnie Sydney and Miss Burton look extremely pretty and give their lines with excellent effect. Miss Caroline Parkes—an invaluable addition to Mr. Smith's company—sings, fights, speaks, and dances with an amount of "go" that wins well-merited applause. M. Espinosa and Mlle. Sophie display astounding agility in the ballet department, and Mlle. Fenette and her sister introduce a rollicking "can-can" which receives a deserved "encore." The pantomimists are excellent, but a special word of praise is due to Mlle. Austin (from the Gaité), who dances as a Watteau harlequin with a speaking grace that I have rarely seen equalled on the English stage. Mr. Edward Lauri is a capital bustling clown of the old school. The dresses are exquisite, and the many ballets are charmingly arranged. But the scenery, as I said before, is unsatisfactory.

ASTLEY'S has a special reputation for children's pantomimes; and "Harlequin Little Jack Horner" does not fall short of its predecessors. It lays no claim to brilliant or even neat dialogue, and its incidents are confused and incoherent. The author, Mr. Greenwood, in marshalling his effects, has relied upon a realisation of a dozen well-known nursery rhymes, and he fairly earns the approbation of the special audience to whom he appeals. The piece is liberally mounted, and the transformation scene, by Mr. Julian Hicks, is particularly splendid. The comic scenes are good; but a Clown who sports the impertinence of a moustache should be shaved by main force, if persuasion has no effect upon him. The pantomime is in every way successful.

The HOLBORN pantomime is a *rechauffé* of Albert Smith's and Tom Taylor's burlesque of "Valentine and Orson," with a pantomimic termination. The original piece was never very successful, although it contains some admirable lines with the true burlesque ring in them. It is a slur on the Holborn audiences that they allow such a capital couplet as this to pass unnoticed:—

Valentine. Come! bumpers round. What say you?
Somebody else. Oh, with pleasure!
Valentine. As we're unanimous we'll pass the measure!

The alterations which the piece has undergone at Mr. Kenny's hands are not improvements. The scenery is good; the transformation scene is very good; the ballet only so-so. Some of the dresses are magnificent, particularly the armour-suits in which Eglantine and her comrades are clothed. Miss Charlotte Saunders is a dashing Valentine, and Miss Goodall plays Eglantine nicely. The comic scenes are of the usual character—full of bustle, but with very little in the way of novelty to recommend them.

The performance of the Christy's Minstrels, at St. James's Hall, are of more than ordinary excellence. The singing is really admirable.

THE NEW SURREY PANTOMIME.

At this theatre the pantomime is entitled "The Fair One with the Golden Locks;" or, Harlequin and Davy Jones's Locker." Nearly everyone is familiar with the title, "The Fair One with the Golden Locks;" but the authors of the pantomime—who, by-the-way, write under the *nom de plume* of the "Brothers Wag"—have applied it to a novel plot, and have striven, by wedding the punning verse and absurd parody of modern burlesque to the old, genuine, comic pantomime business, to produce an opening full of verbal conceits and broad fun from beginning to end. The piece commences at the cottage of Mrs. Brown (Mr. C. Jones), own sister to the lady of that name who was, not long since, at the Egyptian Hall, Piccadilly. The pantomime Mrs. Brown is a widow and a washerwoman, who has one daughter, Goldenhair (Miss Augusta Thomson), the fair one with the golden locks. The young lady is in love with Prince Hyacinth (Miss E. Webster), who has gained her affections in the disguise of a portrait-painter. Baron Boguehee (Mr. E. Terry), a villain of the deepest dye, is also one of Goldenhair's suitors, but of course is rejected; whereupon Mrs. Brown offers herself to him, and is in her turn rejected. The Baron seizes Goldenhair, determined to carry her off, when he is confronted by Prince Hyacinth. Foiled in his attempt, Boguehee dispatches a telegram to Davy Jones requesting a talisman. After a love-making scene and some complications, the Fairy Pavonia (Miss H. Clayton) appears; and, promising to aid the young couple in baffling the machinations of Davy Jones and the Baron, she changes the scene to the Golden Groves of Laburnums in the Garden of Felicity, where Pavonia presents Carlo (Mr. Furtado), a most intelligent dog, to Goldenhair. Boguehee also arrives with the magic mirror he has received from Davy Jones, which compels those who look in it to follow him to the bottom of the sea, to "Davy Jones's Locker." Mrs. Brown and Goldenhair succumb to its influence, and, with the dog and the Baron, arrive outside Davy's Locker, to the interior of which they are introduced by one of his imps. Davy Jones (Mr. W. Holston), a very fierce though exceedingly jovial personage, has also fallen in love with Goldenhair, and therefore determines to "sell" the Baron. Davy offers his hand and locker to Goldenhair, who, as a matter of course, refuses him. The Prince enters to her aid disguised as a sailor, and, bearding the lion in his den, a combat ensues. Hyacinth is overpowered and confined in Davy Jones's deepest locker. Goldenhair, to rescue him, affects to listen to Davy's suit, which so elates him that he indulges in a carouse, and during his drunken sleep the fairy effects the escape of the lovers by submarine railway, and the scene ends with a grand scheme of revenge between the Baron and Davy. Arrived on earth, by Whale Bay, the Prince reveals his rank to Goldenhair, and they proceed to his palace. A grand naval and military review of the retainers of Davy and the Baron ensues, and a new arrival in England—to wit, the Walrus—is introduced. Carlo then enters as an envoy with an invitation from the Prince and the assurance that Goldenhair will marry either Davy or the Baron. In the next scene, the Throne-room of Hyacinth's Palace, a variety of complications take place, ending, of course, in the triumph of virtue and the defeat of vice; and so all the characters come to the transformation scene, typical of Earth, Fire, Air, and Water, and grand allegorical tableaux of Neptune's Homage to Britannia. The harlequinade is supported by Mr. Silvain, as Harlequin; Mlle. Emilie Colonna, as Columbine; Mr. Gellini, as Pantaloon; Miss Collins, as Harlequina; and Mr. Harry Croustie, the Queen's jester, as Clown.

PARIS GOSSIP.

TALK of militarism—to use the word that M. Thiers prefers—what grander display of it could be seen than on the first day of the year at the Tuilleries and in the parts adjacent? In the Rue de Rivoli, on the Quai du Louvre, in the Place du Carrousel; in all the parades, in short, of the Imperial Palace, the passer-by occupied with his own affairs was in constant danger of bouncing against a gorgeously-attired "horcifer" or of being run down by one; for militarism is just now the order of the day in Paris.

The Government has got the Legislative Body to agree to prepare the army for war. The term of nine years' service has been voted by a large majority, against the opinion of the best-informed military men in France; but, *en revanche*, the Government had to yield on the question between marriage being allowed during the last two or the last three years of service. The universal opinion is that a married man is no good soldier—that is, in offensive warfare. Then, again, the Garde Mobile, in which every man between twenty and twenty-five must be enrolled who has not been drawn for the active army, is of no use whatever for real war; all it can do is to keep garrison in the fortresses. However, the present Legislature backs up the Government in its proposals; and, as M. Thiers says, the strength of the country will be diffused and so far inefficient, instead of being concentrated, after the fashion of Jove's thunderbolts. However, on the question of marriage, it is something to note that the Government sustained a defeat—the first Parliamentary reverse it has met with for the last fifteen years.

The opinion is not exactly universal, but is very general, that this Army Bill is a bill drawn upon war at three months' date: whether it will be met or dishonoured is another question.

On Tuesday morning there was a grand turn out of the military bands now in Paris in the courtyard of the Tuilleries. Those of the Imperial Guard and of the National Guard met to give the Emperor an *aubade*. As a serenade means music at nightfall, so *aubade* means a musical salute at daybreak; but to suit modern exigencies it took place at one p.m. The effect was very fine; the execution of the various pieces by each band in turn nearly equalled that of the Austrian military bands here last autumn; and between each the roulades of the drums were most martial. A grand flourish of trumpets—a dozen—specially requested by the Emperor, more than reminded me of a scene in "King John."

The new arrangement of the French constituencies has been settled for the next five years. The plan is self-working, and the results are determined by the increase or decrease of population. It is indeed what the English extreme politicians mean by electoral districts; only here the alteration of the limits, the taking away from one constituency and adding to another, is in the hands of the Home Office, who, with the prefects, manages it all; not, of course, in the interest of the Government, but with the most perfect impartiality. On this supervision nine members are added to the departments, making the Chamber of Deputies 292 in all; but Paris gets no accessions.

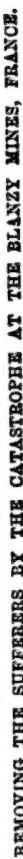
I think I mentioned a few months back a "card" from Mlle. Patti affirming that she had no thought of marrying; and I added that by this sign you might know the event was coming. Well, this delightful nightingale is announced to be married to the Marquis de Caux, one of the first dancers in this nation of dancers. Here is the union of two Muses.

We are in the very midst of the execrated season of *etrennes*; the frost is intense; the shops are gay, and the streets crowded.

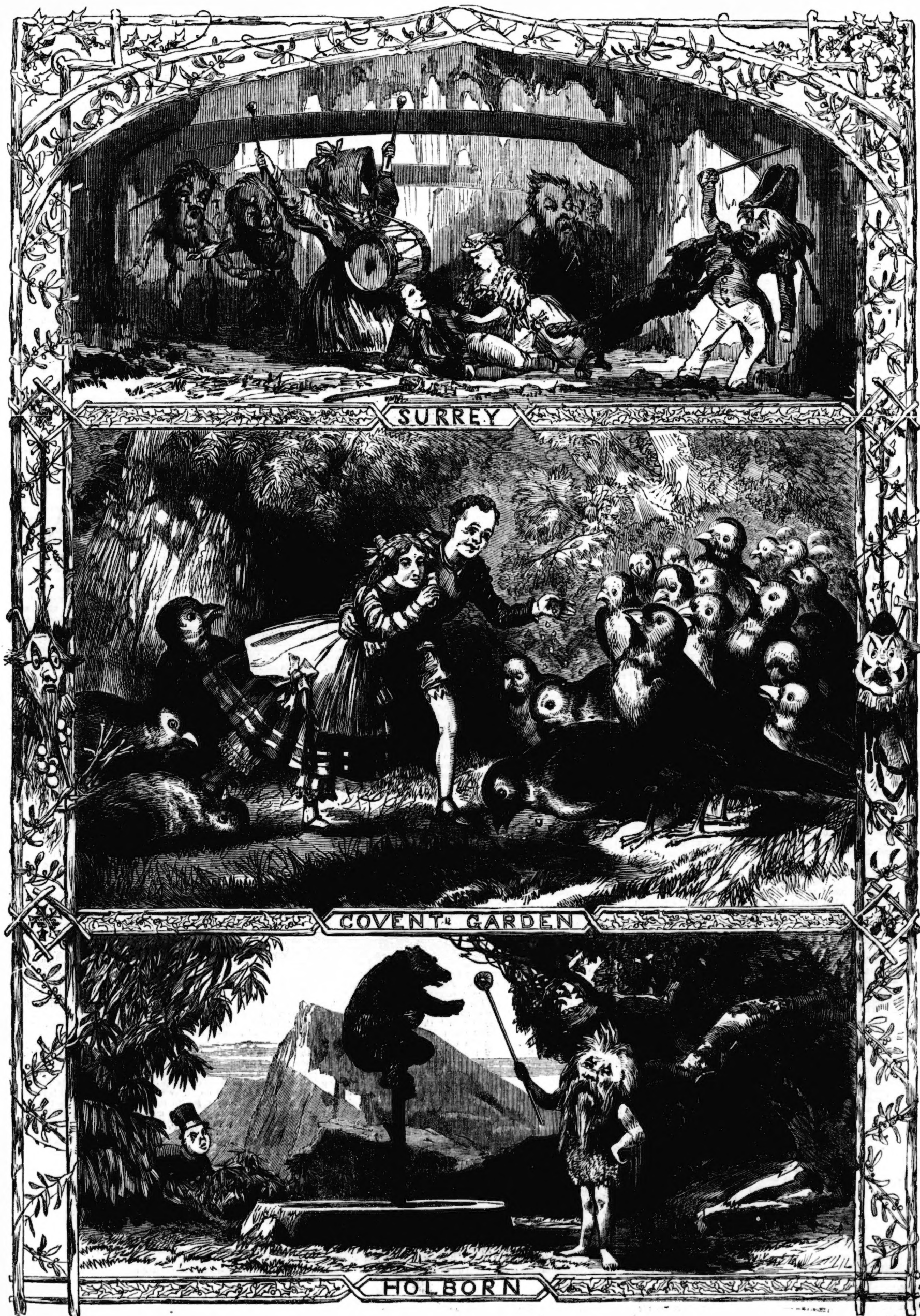
THE REVENUE.

	Quarter end. Dec. 31, 1866. Net Revenue.	Quarter end. Dec. 31, 1867. Net Revenue.	Year end. Dec. 31, 1866. Net Revenue.	Year end. Dec. 31, 1867. Net Revenue.	Year ended Dec. 31, 1867. Increase. Decrease.
Customs	5,964,000	6,102,000	21,915,000	22,630,000	715,000
Excise	5,471,000	5,092,000	20,616,000	19,955,000	661,000
Stamps	2,308,000	2,296,000	9,291,000	9,597,000	306,000
Taxes	1,358,000	1,317,000	5,463,000	5,484,000	21,000
Property Tax	1,314,000	885,000	5,458,000	5,266,000	192,000
Post Office	1,140,000	1,180,000	4,375,000	4,630,000	255,000
Crown Lands	95,000	100,000	327,000	337,000	10,000
Miscellaneous	682,935	553,980	2,340,662	2,764,516	423,854
Total	18,332,935	17,225,980	68,785,662	68,663,516	1,202,146
				Net Decrease	122,146

* Including New Zealand Bonds, £300,000.



NOT RECORDED



SCENES FROM THE PANTOMIMES.—SEE THEATRICAL LOUNGER, PAGE 7.

TERRIBLE EXPLOSION IN THE FRENCH COLLIERIES OF BLANZY.

WE are not alone in those dreadful calamities which, like that at the Farnale Colliery, seem to paralyse the community with a kind of vague terror and a doubt, if not of the advance of mechanical science, at least of the humanity of those employers of labour who refuse to avail themselves of what seem to be the necessary contrivances for the preservation of human life.

The district of Blanzay, in the Department of Saône et Loire, has recently been the scene of a calamity as shocking as that which occurred at Farnale, and one of our illustrations refers to the efforts that were made to recover the bodies of the victims.

On Dec. 12, at eleven o'clock in the morning, a tremendous explosion was heard near a shaft known by the name of the Cinquons (for French as well as English miners give their pits quaint names), and the concussion was so violent that the engineer Pommairac, and his foremen, who were at the bottom of the shaft, were thrown down and nearly stifled in their attempts to escape. The engineer, however, succeeded in catching up a child, and with it reaching the cage, at the same moment giving the signal for drawing it up to the surface. On receiving intelligence of the accident Messrs. Leonce-Chagot, the manager, Reydellet, principal engineer, and La Goutte, his subordinate, hurried to the shaft and descended, followed by a number of volunteers, to the lower part of the pit, in order to effect the rescue of those who remained. They had, however, been preceded in this perilous attempt by a foreman named Jean Sannier, who was present at the time of the explosion, and who, as soon as the smoke had escaped by the orifices of the pit, descended, at the risk of his life, to assist his unfortunate comrades. The chief engineer met this man in the pit on his arrival. Meanwhile, an immense crowd had assembled, the gendarmes and the local authorities also arriving from the surrounding district. It was with the greatest difficulty that the people in the crowd were prevented from approaching too near the pit's mouth, seeking, in their agony of fear, to recognise in the scorched and blackened corpses the faces of husbands, brothers, fathers, or sons. Order was maintained, however, and by four o'clock in the afternoon forty-nine bodies were brought out from the galleries in the workings, while the wounded were conveyed to the hospital belonging to the company.

Fifty-seven bodies were eventually recovered, and still there were supposed to be others in the galleries which had not been entered. Subscriptions for the sufferers were immediately commenced, and Captain Castaigne, orderly officer to the Emperor, afterwards arrived to convey the condolence of his Majesty to the families of the miners. Besides the assistance sent by the Emperor on the first news of the disaster, Captain Castaigne was subsequently charged to distribute to the families of the sufferers a sum of 200,000*fr.* in the name of the Emperor, Empress, and Prince Imperial. In addition, the Empress has ordered the aide-de-camp to announce to the Prefect that her Majesty places at the disposition of the suffering families ten places in the Imperial Institution Eugénie-Napoleon, founded by her in the Faubourg Saint Antoine, and under her Majesty's direction.

The funeral ceremony at Blanzay was one of the most solemn sights ever witnessed. Almost the entire population was assembled round the fifty-seven coffins; the authorities of the department, the officers of the company, and the directors and engineers of the mines of Creuzot and Mont Chanain, also came to render the last tokens of respect to the unfortunate victims. On the following day a religious service was held in presence of Monseigneur the Bishop of Autun, who came to render consolation to those who had been bereaved. It is satisfactory to know that the accident is attributed to no especial neglect, and none of the workpeople murmur at the calamity; but we may surely hope that the frequency of such terrible casualties may teach the owners of collieries how to use further means of providing against them in the future.

The entire number of workmen involved in the catastrophe at Blanzay amounts to eighty-two killed, and seventeen seriously, and twenty-eight slightly, injured.

FATAL EXPLOSION AT THE FAVERSHAM POWDER-MILLS.

A FEARFUL explosion occurred last Saturday morning at these powder-mills, by which eleven men were blown into the air and killed instantly, and a great quantity of valuable property destroyed.

The gunpowder works belonging to the Messrs. Hall are situated about a mile from the town of Faversham, and are completely isolated from any other buildings. To this circumstance may be attributed the safety of the town, for the force of the explosion was tremendous, and had there been any habitations near a much greater sacrifice of life would have been inevitable. The force of the explosion was so great that it shook all the windows and broke some glass in the city of Canterbury, about ten miles distant. At the powder-works the explosion carried everything before it. Trees of giant size were uprooted and thrown a distance of several hundred yards, and the boiler of the engine, weighing about half a ton, was found deeply imbedded in one of the fields on Ham Farm, a considerable distance off. The fields near the works are strewn with fragments of bricks, and the young trees near the scene of the explosion are cut off as with a scythe. In fact, the whole neighbourhood presents the appearance of having been visited with a terrible convulsion of nature.

The works were opened as usual, last Saturday morning, and all went well till close upon eleven o'clock, when a fearful explosion occurred in what is called the "cornering-house." This was followed, almost immediately, by two other explosions equally severe. Measures were at once taken to ascertain the extent of the disaster, and it was soon found that there was not one left alive to tell the tale of how it originated. The three houses which were blown into fragments are large and substantially built, and stood at a distance of about 300 ft. apart. They were all thought to be completely isolated, and were protected from lightning and from the danger of one communicating fire to the others by high mounds of earth, which surrounded them, and, as was supposed, isolated all three places from each other. The powder was finished in its manufacture in these houses, and it was, therefore, all the more necessary that extra precaution should be taken to ensure their safety. The raw material is brought from the green powder houses to the press house, where it is squeezed into cakes by a screw worked by steam. Thence it is conveyed in cakes to the cornering-house, where it is separated and grained; and from this place it passes in all but a finished state to the glazing-house, where it is packed in bags or barrels, as may be required. There was, it is admitted, a large quantity of gunpowder in a manufactured state in this part of the works on Saturday, but not more, we are informed, than Messrs. Hall are allowed to have in stock at one time.

At the time the explosion occurred there were twelve men at work in the portion of the manufactory which has been destroyed. Of these eleven were blown up with the houses in which they were at work, and on Saturday night scarcely a fragment of any of their bodies had been discovered. A portion of a leg or of a trunk was found among the ruins, but this is all that exists of the unfortunate men. The fragments of the building and timbers were cast up in the air to a height of about 200 ft., and the heavier portions of the structure were thrown to distances which might seem incredible to any but an eye-witness. The explosion occurred in the cornering-house, and it was followed at intervals of about half a minute by the pressing and glazing houses. When the explosion occurred every one was for the moment paralysed, but in a few minutes abundant help was at hand; but every soul had been blown away with the houses in which they were working. The manager, the foreman, and all the available strength of the works were on the spot in a few minutes, but all they could do was to look on in dumb dismay at the miserable wreck. Later in the day the huge gaps which had been made in the fences by the blowing away of the trees were boarded up, and a detachment of coastguardsmen and county police posted at all the available points of entrance to prevent intrusion.

Many of the friends of those who were known to be working in the mills came up to learn the fate of the workmen, and many a fireside in Faversham was made dark by the fearful calamity. The following are the names of those who were killed:—John Young, married, six of family; George Taylor, married, two of family; Edward Young, married, two of family; William Sole, married, three of family; William Austin, married, two of family; Christopher Jencock, married, no family; Thomas Baldock, married, no family; Thomas Amos, married, five of family; William Eley, married, one of family; John Payn, married, five of family; and Thomas Back, married, three of family. There are thus eleven widows and twenty-nine children left to mourn the loss of their natural protectors; and what aggravates the calamity is that many of the children are very young, and unable to do anything for themselves.

Besides the damage done to the works a good deal of property has been destroyed in the town of Faversham by the concussion of the atmosphere consequent on the explosion. A great number of windows were shattered; and on Ham Farm, about a quarter of a mile from the works, the farm steading has been rent from end to end, some stacks of produce tossed about as by a whirlwind, and other damage done to the house and buildings, which it will cost a good deal to repair.

Two hairbreadth escapes occurred, one being that of the engineer at the works, who went out of the house a minute before the explosion to a place at a short distance off, and was only stunned by the concussion. He can tell nothing of the origin of the explosion, and knows of nothing having gone wrong till he was thrown upon the ground and rendered senseless. A second escape is that of a labouring man who was coming up to the cornering-house with a horse and cart, and who was lifted bodily off his feet and deposited in a stream of running water a considerable distance off.

An inquest was held on Monday on the bodies of the men killed by the explosion. Identification of their remains was entirely out of question. The foreman of the works was examined, and expressed his conviction that the explosion was the result of an accident. He declared that he had not seen any strangers loitering about the mills. The jury found a verdict of accidental death, and added to it an expression of opinion that Messrs. Hall and Sons took every precaution in their power against accident.

THE RECENT STORMS.

(From the Journal of the National Life-boat Association).

OF all the stormy periods which have found noble work for our life-boat fleet, and which have tried the mettle of the brave fellows by whom it is manned, perhaps none have exceeded in violence and destructiveness that of the last few weeks. It has almost seemed as if the tornadoes or cyclones of the tropics had found their way to our northern shores, although somewhat shorn of their strength before they have reached us. Indeed, if we contrast the character of the short, fitful, and varying storms of the last few years with the steadier and longer gales to which we have been formerly accustomed, it seems more than probable that such has been the case, and that a more general disturbance of the atmosphere in the northern hemisphere has been the result, which disturbance, with its consequent unsettled weather and diversified seasons, may possibly last for several years to come.

Whether, however, such be the case, and whether the old seasons that we recollect "in the merry days when we were young" will again revisit us, or whether, as is perhaps more likely, the progressive changes which have in times past altered the relative climates of the globe, and left the remains of tropical animals and plants even in its present antarctic regions, will still go on and conduct the earth and its inhabitants through a progression of further changes, so great as to be now inconceivable to us; whether such be the case or not, of one thing we may be certain—that not only will storms and hurricanes continue, but that they are an essential element in preserving and promoting the purity of the lower stratum of the air, and in thus maintaining it in a fitting state for healthy respiration by the animal and vegetable worlds.

It behoves us, then, even while the dire effects of the storm are spread before our eyes, in the shape of broken ships, wasted property, and drowned men, thankfully and reverentially to accept the lesser evil with the greater good that Divine Providence has willed for us, and manfully, as heretofore, to strive to lessen the effects of the evil. And may we not feel sure that in so doing we are fulfilling at least one of the objects for which evil is permitted in this imperfect state of existence—viz., the stirring us up to the active exercise of the higher functions of our nature, as manifested in our duties one to another, which an untried good would fail to awaken within us.

Let us, however, turn our thoughts to the more practical part of the subject—the rescue of the shipwrecked sailor whom the storm has cast away on our shores, and truly we shall find enough to enlist our sympathy and aid in his behalf. Let us contemplate him lashed to the rigging or the bulwark of his craft, breaking up beneath his feet, with the great surf leaping over her, and naught but the huge waves breaking and roaring all around; when, with his life's blood chilling in his veins, death staring him in the face, and his heart failing him from fear, his thoughts are turned—maybe for the last time—towards those who will mourn his loss in his distant home; when, except he should be able to descry the boat of mercy coming to his aid, he knows his last hour is come.

Or, again, let us change the scene, and depict to our mind's eye a corresponding scene on shore. The night is dark, the cold wintry wind and drenching rain, or blinding snow, have driven every living creature to the shelter of its home, except the few hardy men whose business is with waves, and the coast patrol whose duty ties him to the shore. Suddenly a signal light is seen at sea—experienced eyes know but too well the tale it tells. The alarm is given, and quickly, but at first one by one, the hardy boatmen of the place emerge from their humble dwellings, and soon an anxious crowd is gathered together—women, and even children, have mingled with it; there is a running hither and dither—answering lights are shown to those on sea. Presently the life-boat on its carriage, drawn by horses or by men, comes rapidly to the spot, and is soon at the water's side. The determined men who form her crew are seated in her—nervous, and often weeping women, their wives and relations, are gathered round, the launching ropes are manned, there is a plunge, and the noble boat and her nobler freight have disappeared amid the thick darkness, and naught is seen or heard but the roar of the waves as they raise their huge crests and fall heavily and continuously on the shore.

Reader, this is no imaginary picture—it is one which has been repeated many times in the gale of the past two months; during those gales no less than two hundred and sixty-one lives of human beings have been saved by the life-boats of the National Life-boat Institution alone, and nearly the whole of whom would undoubtedly have perished but for that aid.

These noble services have varied much in character; many have been during the dark hours of night, others have been by day; some have been at short distances from the shore, others on the outlying banks far from the land. In some cases greater danger has been incurred than in others. In some men have been washed overboard from the boats but recovered again. One of the institution's life-boats was upset when returning to her station; but although with sails set at the time, and the sheets kept fast, she soon righted herself again, and none of her crew were lost. But another life-boat, the property of the boatmen at Gorleston, on the Norfolk coast, was upset by collision with another vessel, and no less than twenty-five of those on board her perished.

Indeed, the work of saving shipwrecked persons, even in the best-appointed life-boats, must ever be one of danger; and no little courage and hardihood are required on the part of those who engage in it. By giving their invaluable aid they perform their full share of the duty of alleviating and reducing the amount of the misery and evil produced by the storms on our coasts. It remains for those who cannot share the risks and exposure which these brave men incur to perform their part in this humane work, by enabling the institution which has undertaken to organise and superintend it to provide the

life-boat crews with every means of safety and efficiency and to remunerate them sufficiently; this serving as some encouragement to them, in return for the risks, labour, and exposure which they undergo.

The National Life-boat Institution accordingly appeals to all humane and generous persons in the United Kingdom to contribute from their abundance towards so good a cause.

We may add that contributions in aid of the great and important work of the National Life-boat Institution are received by all the bankers throughout the United Kingdom; and by the secretary, at the institution, 14, John-street, Adelphi, London.

"NO THOROUGHFARE."

THE extra Christmas number of "All the Year Round" has become a national institution, which we expect to see as regularly as Christmas itself. Nor is it a mere story for which we look; it is a new character, a new creation, from a man of genius. If, in the first week of December, a great painter were regularly to give us a small but highly-finished drawing of social life, such as Wilkie might have offered in his early days, we should have the artistic equivalent of the literary Christmas-box which Mr. Dickens annually presents to England. Each bequest cannot, of course, be richer than the one before, and, indeed, the novelette for 1866 was decidedly inferior to that for 1865; but "No Thoroughfare" is at least as good as any bit of Christmas story-telling which Mr. Dickens has produced for years. To begin with, there is an improvement in the plan. The more recent of the past Christmas numbers can be compared to nothing so fitly as a series of cabinet pictures in one splendid frame; the pictures from the hand of skilled artists, the frame from the hand of a master. Like Boccaccio and Chaucer, Mr. Dickens gave us the setting of the work; unlike Boccaccio and Chaucer, he then had the stories told by others; and next, with his own hand, he drew the tail-piece. The device is good; but it can easily be overdone, and the sense of artistic symmetry is shocked if the framework of the sketches happen to be better than the sketches themselves. We are glad, therefore, that "No Thoroughfare" is on a different model. "No Thoroughfare" is not a collection of stories; it is one story, artistically complete. Though a miniature, it is as full of detail as a historical piece; though a novelette of forty-eight pages, it has as intricate a plot as a three-volume novel from the hand of Mr. Wilkie Collins. Mr. Dickens and Mr. Collins have worked in the same fashion as Beaumont and Fletcher. The story is their joint production. No signature marks the line where the author of "David Copperfield" leaves off and the author of "The Woman in White" begins; but the style of the two writers is so different that the work of each can be as easily identified as if each had accompanied it with his name. The story is like a letter containing two handwritings—a large, bold, free style, and a small, neat, sharp style; one more powerful, the other more finished; here a few words in one hand, there a few in another; now whole pages written in a uniform fashion, and then whole pages in which the workmanship suggests the idea—the very fallacious idea, of course—that, sitting at the same table, the writers have done alternate paragraphs. For this reason "No Thoroughfare" is a literary curiosity. Literary partnership is even more rare than artistic, and when the members of the firm are men of such a different stamp as Mr. Dickens and Mr. Collins the wares which they jointly manufacture are valuable as studies. But "No Thoroughfare" has a higher value. Admirable as a specimen of story-telling, it is still more admirable for the little pieces of character-painting that light up the narrative like a series of finished etchings.

"No Thoroughfare" resembles "Tom Jones" in being the story of a founding. The curtain rises near the postern gate of the hospital for founding children, on a November night, black with thick fog, in the year 1835. An unmistakable voice introduces us to a veiled lady, who follows a young woman, one of the attendants, stops her, tries to put a bribe into her hand, is scornfully repulsed, and then, in tearful accents, puts the question, "What are the names they have given my poor baby?" The question is one which Sally is bound not to answer, the rules of the institution being strict on that point; but she at last whispers the words "Walter Wilding," and rushes away. When the curtain next rises twelve years have passed, and we have before us the founding children at the Sunday dinner. Many of the worshippers in the chapel stop to see the pleasant sight, and, among others, a veiled lady, who has no companion. Approaching an attendant, she whispers, "Which is Walter Wilding?" The nurse must not tell, it is against the rules; but, giving way to the frenzied earnestness of the lady's voice and the potent fascination of gold, she consents to touch the boy's shoulder. At last the mother sees her son; she kisses him and vanishes. Fourteen years elapse, and we are brought to the counting-house of Wilding and Company, wine merchants, situated in a courtyard diverging from a winding street between Tower-street and the Thames—a courtyard which is "No Thoroughfare." In the counting-house we meet the Walter Wilding whom we last saw at dinner in the Foundling. Since that time he has been claimed by his mother, has lived with her for years, has mourned her death, has entered into an inheritance of wine-selling, and has developed into a kind-hearted, soft-headed, sentimental, overgrown baby, with a passion for taking people into his confidence, and a tendency to apoplexy. After Mr. Dickens has, in a few masterly sentences, put before us weak, well-intentioned Wilding, we make the acquaintance of one of those characters which will become as much a part of our literature as Parson Adams. "Joey Ladle," the head cellarman of the firm, is "a slow, ponderous man, of the drayman order of human architecture, dressed in a corrugated suit and bibbed apron, apparently a composite of doornat and rhinoceros-hide." Long and faithful service has given Joey the privilege of addressing his master in the plainest of Saxon; and of that privilege he makes use in speaking to Wilding on the subject of board and lodging. "Where I peck aint so high a object with me as How Much I peck. Nor even so high a object with me as How Much I peck." Wilding expresses the hope that all the servants will live like a united family, in the fashion that was once common in mercantile establishments, before London went out of town every night to its country house. "It is all very well," answers Joey, "for you that has been accustomed to take your wine into your systems by the convivial channel of your throattles, to put a lively face upon it; but I says, 'I have been accustomed to take my wine in at the pores of the skin, and took that way, it acts different. It acts depressing. . . . It makes all the difference betwixt bubbles and wapours.' I tells Pebbleson Nephew. And so it do. I've been a cellarman my life through, with my mind fully given to the business. What's the consequence? I'm as muddled a man as lives—you won't find a muddler man than me—nor yet you won't find my equal in mulloncolly."

Since, in the good old style, the wine merchant is to live at his place of business, and since he is unmarried, he must have a house-keeper. Accordingly an advertisement is inserted in the daily papers, and a host of applicants come to Cripple corner. After many failures, at last one applicant is satisfactory, and she turns out to be the very woman who, many years before, had been stopped in the street by Wilding's mother, and had told the child's name. Here the plot begins to thicken. On finding out that her new master had once been in the Foundling she is struck dumb with horror, and tells him a dreadful story. He is not the son of the lady. Many years ago her boy was consigned to the charge of another lady who wished to adopt a child, and the name Walter Wilding was given to one of the next children who entered the hospital. The nurse who in the dining-room had pointed out Walter Wilding knew but one boy of that name. Him she pointed out; him the lady kissed in the belief that it was the child of her sin; him she afterwards took to her own home; on him she lavished her affection, and to him she left her wealth. She was the victim of a dreadful mistake, which it was left for the object of her bounty to discover. Though stunned by the blow, he acts like a man of honour, and determines to

seek for the real son of the lady whom he had called his mother. The search is fruitless; every trace of the lost heir is gone. Soon afterwards Wilding dies, leaving the property in the hands of trustees, who were bound to hand it over to the rightful owner, if he should ever appear. At this stage of the story we become intimately acquainted with a new set of characters—Wilding's partner, Vendale, a fine manly Englishman; Obeneizer, a Swiss, who has come to England as the representative of a firm with which Wilding and Co. had large business dealings, and who turns out to be the villain of the tale; Marguerite, his beautiful, gentle niece and ward; Mme. Dor, a Swiss old lady, as broad as she is long. Vendale falls in love with Marguerite of course, but he is never able to speak with her alone, on account of the constant watchfulness of Obeneizer, who hates him, and of Mme. Dor, who is Obeneizer's detective. At last, however, comes the chance; the soft word is said, the fitting reply is given, and Vendale is Marguerite's accepted lover. Obeneizer is enraged; and the scene in which the two men of the world fence, in order that each may put the other in a false position, is one of the best bits of dialogue in the story. The upshot is that Obeneizer, as Marguerite's guardian, forbids the marriage for the present on the plea that Vendale is not rich enough to support her in fitting style, but promises to give his consent when the lover's income shall be £3000 a year. Just at the time when the baffled suitor is striving to increase his income, he is made the victim of a forgery to the extent of £500, and, acting on the suggestion of the house to whom the forged receipt had been sent, he determines to go to Switzerland with the proofs of the crime, so that detection may be more certain. His suspicion does not light on the real criminal, who is Obeneizer. But, knowing that, if Vendale obtains an interview with the firm, his crime will be discovered, Obeneizer determines to go with him, and either to rob him of the fatal document or to murder him. This part of the story, which is under the care of Mr. Collins, reaches the "breathless excitement" pitch of interest. The two travellers reach Switzerland, find the head of the firm in Italy, and, despite the stormy weather, push across the Simplon on foot and guideless. Then, when they are sheltering themselves from the storm in a cave. Obeneizer drugs his companion with poisoned wine, tries to murder him, is wounded with his own knife in the struggle, and at last rolls him off the path into a chasm. Soon afterwards appear unexpected figures—those of Marguerite and Joey, accompanied by a searching party. Suspecting Obeneizer's purpose, Marguerite has followed him to protect her lover; but her pursuit is rewarded only by the finding of what seems his lifeless body. The murderer, who has escaped, reappears again in Neuchâtel, and in the office of a notary finds documents which prove his victim to have been the lost Walter Wilding, the name having been changed by the lady who adopted him. When Obeneizer is telling the notary that Vendale was accidentally killed, suddenly the murdered man enters the room with Marguerite hanging on his arm. By the fall he had been stunned, not killed; and he was now able to make Obeneizer buy safety from the penalties of his two crimes by a written consent to the marriage of his ward and a written promise never to appear in England. Still the wretch would not have kept his word; he would have gone to England and tried to darken the married life of Vendale; so Mr. Wilkie Collins does summary justice on the villain by making him set out over the Alps on foot, and by bringing down an avalanche which kills him on the spot. The day of Obeneizer's death is the day of Vendale's wedding; and he and Marguerite live happy ever afterwards.

Such is the bare outline of "No Thoroughfare," robbed of the details that give it life, and of the glow communicated by a man of genius. It is "highly sensational," no doubt; but it is sensational in the best sense of the term. Tragic rather than horrible, the story is relieved from sombreness by the lambent play of humour. An unskilled hand would have made the Alpine scene offensive; but, in Mr. Collins's hands, it is simply a scene of striking power. The best-drawn character is unquestionably Joey Ladle, with his theory that to drink wine has one effect, and to take it in through the pores of the skin has another. Joey has a philosophy, the subject of which is himself, and the cardinal tenet of which is that he is made up of two natures, a personal and a vinous—the personal good, the vinous bad. "I don't grumble. If anything grumbles it's what I've took in through the pores; it aint me." To Joey and his friends we wish as wide a circle of readers and admirers as we are sure they will receive.—*Telegraph*.

NEW ACTS OF PARLIAMENT.

SEVERAL new Acts of Parliament of considerable social and legal importance came into operation on the 1st instant.

THE COUNTY COURTS ACT

is of such general importance and is calculated to effect so many beneficial changes that we think it advisable to explain its principal provisions. That the necessity of its enactment may be understood, we may state that hitherto great abuses have arisen from the fact that cases which should be tried in county courts—which, all things considered, are expeditious tribunals—were, for obvious reasons, removed by solicitors to the superior courts. It appears on the most reliable authority that the writs for action for amounts under £20 in the superior courts are little, if anything, under half the total number issued. It has been also shown that in the 872,437 plaintiffs of the year 1866 in the county courts the total amount sought to be recovered averaged only 50s. per plaintiff; half of them were for less than 20s.; a quarter under 40s.; a quarter between 40s. and £20; with an insignificant remainder of some 8000 plaintiffs for £20. The number of debts over £10 sued for in the county courts is very inconsiderable, while the court fees are scandalously large in proportion to the amount sought to be recovered. As much as £4 has been paid in fees in order to recover £15, and these fees are payable in advance. The new Act contains thirty-six clauses, and provides that if in any action commenced after the passing of the Act, in any of the superior courts, the plaintiff shall recover a sum not exceeding £20, where the action is founded on contract, or £10 where it is founded on tort, he shall not be entitled to any costs of suit, unless the Judge certify on the record that there was sufficient reason for bringing such action in the superior court, or unless the Court, or a Judge at chambers, shall by rule or order allow such cost. That where in any action of contract commenced in any of the superior courts of common law the claim does not exceed £50, or where the claim should be reduced by part payment or set off to £50, it shall be lawful for the defendant to apply to a Judge at chambers for a summons to the plaintiff, to show cause why such action should not be tried in the county court, and the Judge shall, unless there be good cause shown to the contrary, order such action to be tried accordingly. That where any suit in equity shall be pending which might have been commenced in a county court any of the parties may apply to the Judge at chambers to have the suit transferred to the county court, and the Judge shall have power, either with or without such application, to order such transfer. That the equity jurisdiction now given to county courts in all suits for specific performance, or for the delivering up or cancelling any agreement for the sale or purchase of property where the purchase money shall not exceed £500, shall be extended to all suits for specific performance of or for the reforming, delivering up, or cancelling of any agreement for the sale, purchase, or lease of any property where, in the case of a sale or purchase, the purchase money, or, in the case of a lease, the value of the property, shall not exceed £500. That any person against whom an action for malicious prosecution, illegal arrest, illegal distress, assault, false imprisonment, libel, slander, seduction, or other action of tort that may be brought in a superior court may make an affidavit that the plaintiff has no visible means of paying the costs of the defendant should the verdict be not found or the plaintiff, and thereupon the Judge may make an order that, unless the plaintiff shall give full security for costs, or satisfy the Judge that he has a cause of action fit to be tried in a superior court, all proceedings in the action shall be stayed, or that the cause be remitted for trial to the county court. That all actions of ejectment, where neither

the value of the lands nor the rent payable in respect thereof shall exceed £20, may be brought in the county court. That county courts shall have jurisdiction to try any action in which the title to any corporeal or incorporeal hereditaments shall come in question where neither the value of the hereditaments in dispute nor the rent shall exceed £20 a year. Rules and orders for regulating the practice of the county courts, and the scale of costs to be paid to counsel and attorneys with respect to all proceedings, are to be framed by the county court Judges, to be appointed for that purpose by the Lord Chancellor. These are the principal provisions of the Act, which gives every facility for the recovery of small debts in county courts without making use of the cumbrous machinery which has made the higher tribunals so formidable, and without incurring the oppressive expense which has been allowed so long to exist as a tax on justice.

VACCINATION ACT.

By thirty-seven sections of this Act and a schedule of forms, the law on the subject of vaccination is now amended and consolidated. With the exception as to the divisions and districts of unions and parishes previously made, and to all contracts made and not completed, and also as to liabilities and responsibilities incurred, the Acts and parts of the Acts named are repealed on and after Jan. 1, 1868. The guardians of unions and parishes, where the same have not been divided into districts for the purpose of vaccination, may form districts and consolidate or alter the same, subject to the approval of the Poor Law Board. When a scheme is approved, the guardians may enter into a contract with a duly registered medical practitioner for the performance of vaccination of all persons resident within such district, and he is to be termed the public vaccinator, and when the existing contracts terminate the guardians are to enter into others, with such modifications as the circumstances render necessary, subject to the approval of the Poor Law Board. The qualifications of vaccinators are to be prescribed by the Lords of the Privy Council, and regulations to be made. The Privy Council may, in addition to the payments made by guardians to the vaccinators, allow one shilling for each child whom the vaccinator has successfully vaccinated. The fee to be paid by guardians is not to be less than 1s. 6d. in each case for a successful performance within a mile, and 2s. over one mile and under two, and 3s. for every vaccination done at any station over two miles' distance from his residence. Provision is to be made in the contracts as to conditions and as to revaccination. No contract as to vaccination is to be valid unless approved by the Poor Law Board, and the Board is empowered to determine the same at any time. No payment is to be made out of the poor rate unless the Poor Law Board have approved the contract, and no public vaccinator is to be paid for vaccination out of his district. In places where the population is scanty arrangements may be made for the attendance of a public vaccinator at intervals of three months. The Registrar-General is to provide forms. On a child being registered, or within seven days, the registrar is to give to the parent or other person a notice to have the child vaccinated within three months, and in the following week after the operation the child is to be taken to the vaccinator for inspection. Certificates of successful vaccination are to be transmitted to the registrar, and a duplicate given to the parent; and where vaccination has been performed by a medical practitioner, not being a public vaccinator, a certificate is to be forwarded to the registrar of the district. The registrar is to be paid fees by the guardians. It is declared that vaccination is not parol relief. Every parent or person neglecting to procure the vaccination of a child or causing the same to be inspected, to be liable to a penalty, on summary proceedings of 20s. Justices may make an order for the vaccination of a child under fourteen, and in default impose a penalty of 20s. Costs, &c., may be awarded on a person being improperly summoned. After the commencement of the Act any person inoculating for the smallpox with variolous matter is to be deemed guilty of an offence, and liable to one month's imprisonment. There are formal provisions to enforce the new law, and the forms inserted to be used, and it is to be cited as "The Vaccination Act of 1867."

LABOUR REGULATION AND FACTORY ACTS EXTENSION.

Two Acts regulating labour in factories and workshops, which are connected together, are now in operation. The first, on the extension of the Factory Acts, was passed on Aug. 15; and the second, for regulating the hours of labour for children, young persons, and women employed in workshops, was passed a few days afterwards. The Factory Act is to apply to the whole of the United Kingdom, in which fifty or more persons are employed in any manufacturing process, and the exceptions are set forth in the schedule annexed to the statute. There are temporary and also permanent modifications on the subject of the employment of persons detailed in a schedule. In the second statute, after reference to the Factory Act, it is declared to be expedient to extend protection so far as respects the regulation of the hours of labour to children, young persons, and women working in the smaller establishments; and further to make provision respecting the employment of a fan or other mechanical means for the prevention of the inhalation of dust in workshops in processes of grinding. The Act is also to apply to the whole of the United Kingdom. No child under the age of eight years is to be employed in any handicraft. No child is to be employed in any one day in any handicraft for a period of more than six hours and a half, and such employment is to take place between the hours of six in the morning and eight at night. No young person is to be employed for more than twelve hours, with intervening periods for taking meals and rest, amounting in the whole time to not less than one hour and a half, and the employment to be between five in the morning and nine at night. No child, young person, or woman is to be employed in any handicraft on Sunday or after two o'clock on Saturday, except where not more than five persons are employed, and where such employment consists in making articles to be sold by retail on the premises, or in repairing articles of a like description to those sold on the premises. No child under eleven years is to be employed in grinding in the metal trades or in fasten-cutting. A "child" is to mean one under thirteen, a "young person" of thirteen and under eighteen, and a "woman" eighteen or upwards. There are in this Act temporary and permanent modifications. Every child who is employed in a workshop is to attend school for at least ten hours in every week during the whole of which he is so employed. On the application of a teacher the occupier of a workshop is to pay for the schooling, and to deduct the same from the wages. There are sections to enforce the new law, and to recover penalties in a summary manner under both statutes.

THE AGRICULTURAL GANG ACT.

This Act prohibits the employment of children under eight years of age in agricultural labour, and also enforces a separation of the sexes in field work. Gang masters and gang mistresses are to be licensed, applications for licenses at 1s. each being granted at the discretion of two justices of the peace, with right to appeal to the Quarter Sessions in case of the refusal of applications. Penalties are prescribed in case of non-compliance with the Act.

MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT.

The new Act to Amend the Merchant Shipping Act of 1854 provides that whenever a seaman or apprentice is ill through the neglect of a master or owner in the supply of food, accommodation, medicine, &c., the wages are to be paid by such master or owner; but where a seaman is incapable of performing his duty through his own wilful act or default the wages are to be forfeited. On board British ships a seaman or apprentice is to have a space appropriated for his use on deck of not less than seventy-two cubic feet and twelve superficial feet. Medical inspectors are to be appointed at ports and other places, and ample supplies of lemon-juice and other necessities are to be provided on board all long-voyaged vessels proceeding outwards.

THE GOVERNORS OF CHARING-CROSS HOSPITAL have just organised, on the recommendation of the council of their institution, a new department for the treatment of diseases of the skin, and on Monday last unanimously elected Dr. Tilbury Fox to the post of physician in charge of it.

OBITUARY.

REV. DR. HANNAH.—By the death of the Rev. J. Hannah, D.D., the Wesleyan body has lost a venerable and faithful servant. Dr. Hannah was born at Lincoln on Nov. 3, 1792, and at the time of his death he had, consequently entered on his seventy-sixth year. In 1812 he was removed to the college at Didsbury, where he remained as theological tutor till he became a supernumerary at the last Conference, in June. In the year that he was removed to Didsbury he was elected president of the Conference (London); and he was again president in 1851, when the Conference met at Newcastle-on-Tyne. He was secretary of that assembly in the years 1840, 1841, 1849, 1850, and 1854 to 1858. On two occasions he represented the Wesleyan Conference, once with the Rev. R. R. R. and the second time with Dr. J. F. Johnson, before the American General Conference. At the time of his death he was the oldest member of the legal hundred. Though advanced in years, he was physically and mentally vigorous; he preached even so recently as the end of November. A few days ago he took cold, which resulted in congestion of the lungs. No danger was apprehended till Tuesday (a week since); from that day he gradually sank, and at 10.45 on Sunday morning he calmly passed away. He leaves a widow, to whom he was married more than fifty years ago, and a son, the Rev. Dr. J. Hannah, Warden of Trinity College, Glenalmond, and who was Bampton Lecturer a few years since.

PROFESSOR MACDOUGALL.—We regret to announce the death of this gentleman, who has for some time been in a state of impaired health, and who this season was unfortunately unable to resume his usual duties at the University of Edinburgh. Since the commencement of the present session the moral philosophy class has, with the sanction of the Senatus, been taught by Professor Fraser. The late Professor Macdougall was for a good many years teacher of moral philosophy in the Free Church College, and in 1852, on the demise of the eminent Professor Wilson, he was chosen to succeed him as Professor of Moral Philosophy and Political Economy in the University.

MR. MACKIE, M.P.—Mr. Mackie, M.P. for Kirkcudbrightshire, died suddenly last Saturday morning of disease of the heart, at his residence of Ernespie, near Castle Douglas, in his forty-sixth year. He had sat for the constituency since April, 1857, when he succeeded his father in the representation, and he was elected in politics as a moderate and sound Liberal. During the debates of last year on the Reform Bill Mr. Mackie formed one of the "Tea-room" party, and gave several votes for Government.

SIR SAMUEL FALKNER, BART.—We have lost one more of our few remaining Peninsular heroes by the death of Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Samuel Falkner, Bart., which took place on Monday last. He served, we believe, in the following engagements:—Talavera, Busaco, Albuera, Fuentes d'Oñova, Ciudad Rodrigo, Badajoz, and Salamanca, in three of which he was wounded. He was an esteemed and excellent officer, and was sent home with despatches in 1809, wherein he was honourably mentioned.

BARON MAROCHETTI.—Baron Marochetti died in Paris on Saturday last. The deceased sculptor was in his 63rd year, having been born, at Turin, in 1805. He received his education in Paris, at the Lycée Napoleon, after leaving which he was placed with Boudry, a Parisian sculptor of some eminence. While studying in his atelier he obtained honourable mention from the École des Beaux Arts, but was not awarded any other distinction, and his journey to Italy to complete his studies was undertaken at his own expense. In the year 1827 he returned to France, and in the same year exhibited a group, "A Girl Playing with a Dog," for which a medal was awarded him. This group he presented to the King of Sardinia. In 1831 he exhibited his "Fallen Angel," and somewhat later he executed for the Academy of Arts of Turin a statue of Monsignor Mosé. He presented to the capital of Sardinia an equestrian statue of Emmanuel Philibert, which is by many esteemed his chief d'œuvre, and which was his sole contribution to the French Exposition of 1855. Many of his works are well known in Paris, and among them are one of the bas-reliefs on the Arc de l'Étoile; the tomb of Bellini at Père la Chaise; a statue d'antel in the Church of the Madeleine; three equestrian statues of the Duke of Orleans; a Saint Michel, and a statue of the Empress. Shortly after the revolution of February, 1848, Marochetti came to England, where he soon became known in art-circles. In 1851 he contributed the model of a colossal equestrian statue of Richard Cœur de Lion to the Great Exhibition; but, dissatisfied with the position allotted to it inside the building, he set it up at some distance from the western entrance to the great palace of glass. The statue was afterwards executed in bronze, and placed close to the Palace at Westminster, the cost being defrayed by a national subscription. The people of Glasgow, for whom he had previously finished a statue of Wellington, commissioned him to execute for them an equestrian statue of the Queen, which was inaugurated in 1854. In this year he exhibited in the Royal Academy "Love Playing with a Harp." In 1855 he executed the granite monument to the memory of the English soldiers slain in the Crimea, and a year later, the mausoleum of Princess Elizabeth, daughter of Charles I. He also executed a statue of the great Duke of Wellington, which now surmounts a huge monolith erected to his memory not many months since at Stratfieldsaye. One of his most recent works has been a monument to Lord Clyde, which stands in Waterloo-place. He was also engaged on a monument to the Duke of Wellington, to be erected in St. Paul's Cathedral. He was made a Chevalier of the Legion of Honour in 1839.

AT WEDDINGS IN NEVADA all the gentlemen present kiss the bride, and all the ladies kiss the bridegroom, after which all the ladies and gentlemen kiss each other.

THE CHAPEL OF ST. THOMAS, Douglas, Isle of Man, has been closed, in consequence of a dispute as to the right of presentation between the Bishop and the Vicar of Braddon, in whose parish the church is situated. The services can only take place under the license of the Bishop, and the Vicar has the power of inhibition; and as both have exercised their negative powers, the affair has come to a dead lock, and the Bishop has withdrawn his license.

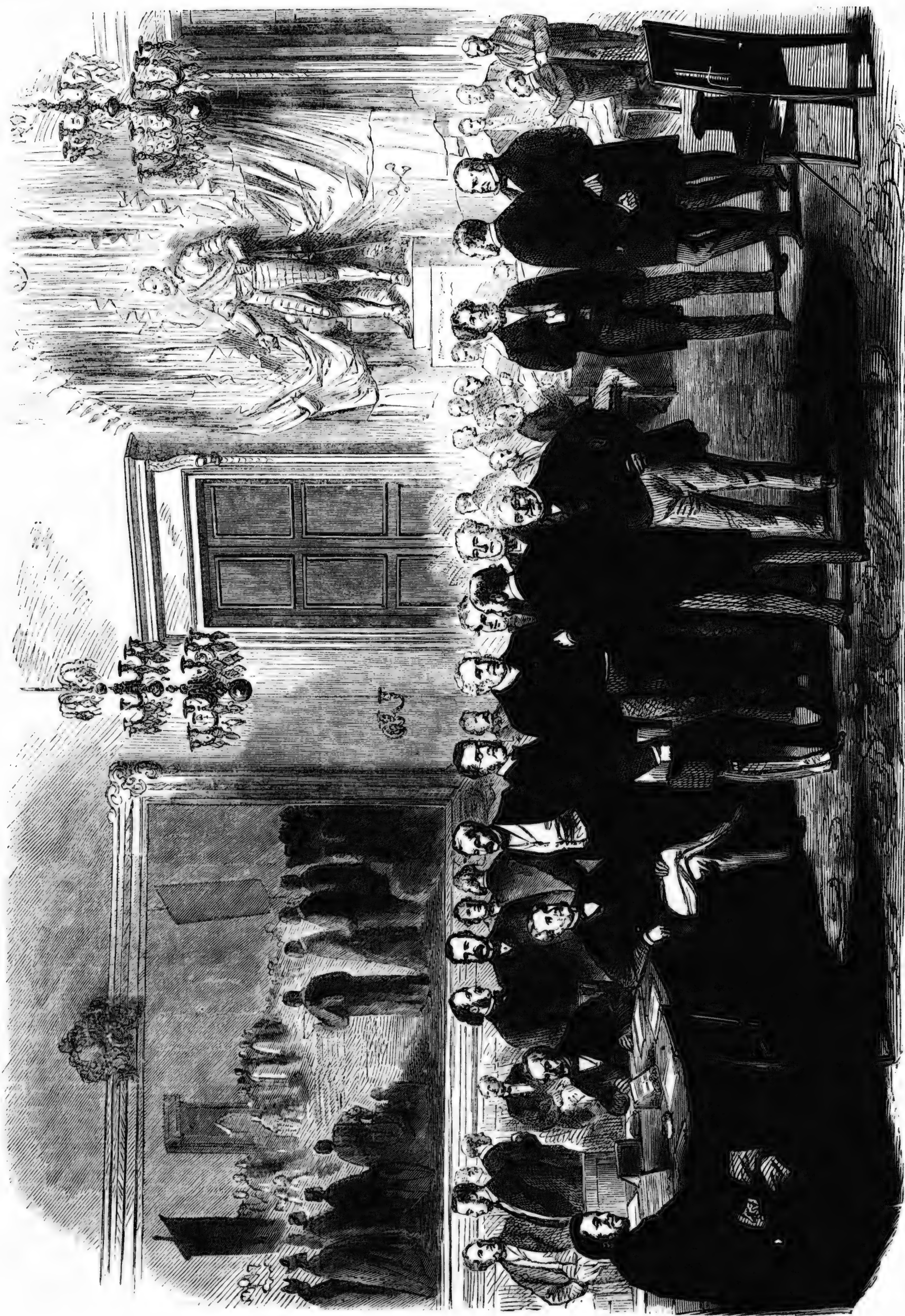
SOUTH KENSINGTON MUSEUM.—Visitors during the week ending Dec. 28:—On Monday, Tuesday, and Saturday (free from ten a.m. till ten p.m.), 7947; on Thursday and Friday (from ten a.m. till ten p.m.), 9543; total, 17,490. Average of corresponding week in former years, 19,405. Total from the opening of the museum, 7,174,754. Patent-office Museum: Number of visitors for the week ending Dec. 28, 9292; total number since the opening of the museum free daily (May 12, 1858), 1,222,160.

M. DOLFIUS ASSUET has determined to erect a chalet on the summit of Mont Blanc, and establish therein a meteorological observatory, which will therefore be placed at an altitude of 4800 metres above the ordinary level of the earth. Two guides, paid and supported by M. Assuet, will spend the summer in this glacial habitation, for the purpose of making meteorological observations. During a period of twelve months three guides were kept at the expense of this savant in a chalet on the Col de St. Theodule at an altitude of 3200 metres—that is, at 2000 or 3000 feet above the shaven crowns of the monks of St. Bernard.

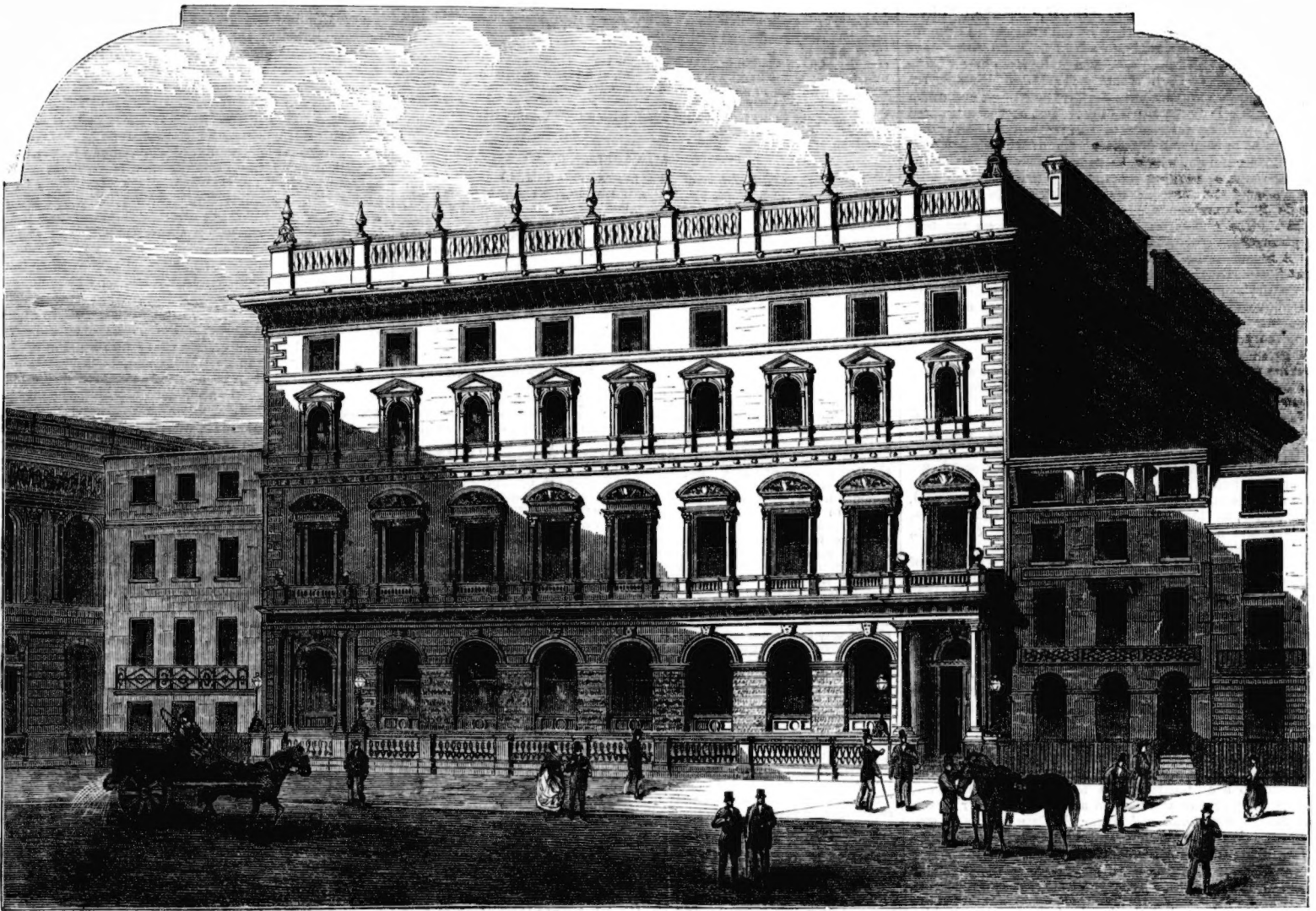
ALBERT MEDALS.—The Queen conferred the "Albert medal" of the first class upon Mr. A. T. Shuttleworth, Deputy Conservator of Forests at Alburgh in consideration of his gallant conduct on the occasion of the wreck of the Berwickshire, on July 22, 1866, where, after two days' exertions, he succeeded in rescuing six men of the *Die Vernon* on Aug. 1, 1866 (here by his intrepidity and courage he averted a greater loss of life than had taken place), and of the *Ferziah*, on July 18, 1867, where he contributed to save the master and thirteen men of the vessel. Her Majesty has also conferred the Albert medal of the second class upon John Ricketts, A.B., of her Majesty's ship *Olio*, for having, on May 29, 1866, when off Ajacamp, on the coast of Mexico, saved the life of a boy of that vessel, who had fallen overboard. The port at the time was infested with sharks, and the seaman Ricketts was suffering from an attack of coast fever.

POST-OFFICE REGULATIONS.—The following regulations, dated the 30th ult., have been issued by command of the Postmaster-General:—The Indian Government have made arrangements for dispatching a steam vessel from Aden to Bombay on the arrival at Aden of each mail-packet proceeding from Suez to Calcutta. The whole of the four mails for India in each month will, therefore, be forwarded via Bombay, two being conveyed by the regular mail-packets from Suez, on the Bombay line, and two being conveyed as far as Aden by the regular mail-packets on the Calcutta line, and from Aden by the extra steam-vessels provided by the Indian Government. The following amended regulations are issued in lieu of those given in notice (No. 53) dated Oct. 30, 1865. Letters addressed to or sent by officers and seamen serving on board her Majesty's ships in the North or South Pacific will in future be chargeable with the following combined British and foreign postage:—Officers' letters, 7d. the single rate not exceeding 40s.; seamen's letters, 2d. each letter. The contract with Messrs. Canard, Burns, and Mac Iver, under which the mails for the Bahamas have hitherto been conveyed from New York to Nassau, being about to expire, the Government of the Bahamas have made arrangements for the mails being carried by the steam-vessels of another company. The first packet to be dispatched under the new arrangement will leave New York on Thursday Jan. 30, 1868, and thenceforward a packet will leave on every fourth Thursday throughout the year. The mails for the Bahamas will be dispatched from London on the evening of every fourth Wednesday, commencing with Wednesday Jan. 15, and supplementary mails will always be forwarded on the evening of the following Saturday, to take the chance of arriving in New York before the departure of the Bahamas packet. No mails for Havannah will, for the present, be forwarded via New York and Nassau.

A MAIDEN SESSION.—At the Salisbury Quarter Sessions, just held there was not a single prisoner for trial. The Mayor of the City (Mr. S. E. Bridge) had, therefore, the pleasing duty of presenting the Recorder (Mr. J. D. Chambers), the Clerk of the Peace, and the Governor of the goal with a pair of white kid gloves each, according to custom on occasions of this sort. The Recorder, in addressing the grand jury, said that he had read the other day in the *Times* that Wiltshire was one of the best-educated counties in England; and it was highly satisfactory to learn, therefore, that the decrease of crime had been in proportion to the spread of education.



COUNCIL-ROOM OF THE FRENCH CORPS LEGISLATIF.



THE NEW JUNIOR CARLTON CLUB, PALL-MALL.

COUNCIL-ROOM OF THE FRENCH CORPS LEGISLATIF.

THE recent proceedings and debates in the French Chambers have been so full of interest that it is with a sort of surprise we learn how barren have been the results of those bold declamations which have distinguished some of the more prominent statesmen. It is not wise, however, to judge of the influence of politics in Paris by comparing

the national institutions with our own. Two modes of procedure differing widely in their operations may conduce to the same result; and there is certainly no lack of eminent men in the French Councils to guide the destinies of that powerful empire. We publish an Engraving this week showing the leaders of the Imperial and the Liberal parties in the Council-room of the Palace of the Legislature during the conference held previous to the commencement of the sittings. The Palace of the Corps Législatif was formerly called the Palace Bourbon, and is opposite the Place de la Concorde.

The building itself was commenced by the Dowager Duchess of Bourbon, in 1722, and was subsequently enlarged and embellished at great cost by the Prince of Condé. The Council of Five Hundred, the Chamber of Deputies, and the other Parliamentary bodies which have at different times been established in France, have generally made this palace their place of meeting. The public are admitted to the sittings of the Corps Législatif by orders from members, in the same way as visitors obtain admission to our own House of Commons.



THE WALRUS LATELY IN THE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY'S GARDENS, REGENT'S PARK.

THE NEW JUNIOR CARLTON CLUB, PALL-MALL.

In consequence of the great number of candidates waiting for admission to the new Conservative club, the committee have thought it necessary to erect a new building, the site chosen being near to the Army and Navy Club House. Mr. David Brandon, the well-known architect, was appointed to design the edifice, and under his direction the work is being carried out. The cost is estimated at about £40,000, without reference to furniture and decorations. There will be a front in St. James's square; the grand entrance-hall will be on the ground floor, where there will also be a reception-room, a smoking-room, a morning-room, and a principal staircase, together with a second staircase, as well as attendants' room, &c. The entrance in St. James's square will be for the members who have bedrooms. The coffee rooms will be situated on the first floor; a plate glass screen will divide the members from the strangers' coffee room. A house dining room, a library, and serving-room will also be on that floor. On the second floor will be handsome billiard-rooms, the secretary's office and bed-room, and a smoking-room for visitors; and above eighteen bedrooms, to be let to the members. Lavatories and attendants' rooms are provided on each of these floors. The top story is intended to provide accommodation for fifty servants; the ground floor contains six dressing and bath rooms, being a mezzanine story, with separate corridor and staircase. Here will be the steward's office, still-room, house-keeper's room, and store-room. The kitchen occupies the sunk story, being 40 ft. by 29 ft., and 19 ft. in height; adjoining will be a servants' hall, butler's pantry, plate closet, clerk's office, kitchenmaids' room, steward's room, larder, cook's room, dispensing and wine cellars, &c.

In the vaults outside, under the St. James's square pavement, are cellars for beer and house coals, vegetable and fish larders, and stores for sand and charcoal. Under the front in Pall-mall, are coal, coke, and wood stores, an ice-well, and rooms for cleaning clothes, boots, and knives, and a lavatory. For dinners, wine, coals, &c., there will be three hydraulic lifts.

Fifteen hundred members now compose the club, exclusive of peers members of Parliament, and members of the Carlton Club who were entitled to admission, making a complement of 1680 members, and they at present occupy premises in Regent-street, the property of the late Parthenon Club.

THE ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS WALRUS.

In November last a walrus was received at the Zoological Gardens in Regent's Park, the advent of which created great interest among naturalists, as this was the first specimen of the creature that had ever been seen in this country alive. Being a male, he was named "Jemmy," and hopes were entertained that he might live and thrive in the gardens. He readily ate shelled shells and mussels, but seemed disinclined to accept of shrimps as food. He has, however, died, and great is the regret of the learned at the event. Mr. Frank Buckland thus describes in *Land and Water* the late walrus, immediately after his arrival in the gardens and while yet he gave hopes of living to reward the efforts of his captors:—

The 1st of November, 1867, will ever be memorable in the annals of natural history as the day on which a living walrus (*Trichechus rosmarus*) arrived at the Regent's Park Zoological Gardens. As it was late in the evening when the van containing the animal arrived, it was determined by Mr. Bartlett to place the huge box in which the beast had travelled alongside the inclosure set apart for his accommodation, and to leave him undisturbed for the night. The next morning a portion of the wirework of the inclosure was taken down, the box shifted close up to the aperture, a plank carefully removed, and out came the head of the walrus. The poor beast sniffed and stared about wondering where he was. We waited quite silent, and then out he came, further and further, till at last, finding the road clear, he waddled right out on to the open. The first thing he did was to put down his great nose and to sniff at the grass—he had, probably, never seen grass before; he then went straight up to a little tree, and examined it with the same sort of curiosity with which we spectators were examining him. He then made direct to the pond, and pulled himself up on to the edge, first with his chin and then with his flippers. After looking round again, he ducked his head under water with the same kind of eagerness that a two months' absence from a bath would be likely to produce in a water-loving animal. Finding it all right, he slipped into the water with the noiseless glide of an otter; down he went, luxuriating in the bath for which he had pined for two months or more. After a long dive, up came his intelligent head to the surface once more, and he gave a long and anxious look round.

At this moment we were much amused to observe the seals in the pond close by. These pretty little things had clambered to the edge of the stone parapet of their pond, and were gazing with all eyes, and with an expression of intense wonder, at the poor walrus, in whom possibly they recognised an old acquaintance. Jemmy (for that is the name of the walrus) then came out of his pond and up to the railing, so that we had a good look at him. He is just about the same size as the sea-bear. I tried to take his measurements but the moment I put the tape near him he turned round and looked so terribly fierce, that I of course instantly desisted. He probably thought the tape was a rope, and, knowing from experience that a rope was no friend of his, objected to its coming near him. His head is seal-like, but the eyes are not so large; they remind one much of the eyes of the hippopotamus. Their colour is dark brown, and the pupil exceedingly small. It is, as far as I could make out, not circular, but vertical, like that of a cat. I think that this peculiar structure is given to preserve the retina of the eye from the glare of the sun on the ice and save the animal from "snow-blindness." Again, it doubtless has to do with his being able to see during the semi-darkness of the long arctic winter. Possibly it serves both purposes.

The colour of Jemmy's coat is tawny, not unlike that of Scotch snuff; his hair is rather short, and throws off the water easily from its surface. When damp it is apparently divided into diamond-shaped patterns, like a quilted petticoat. In his walk he wriggles much more than the sea-bear. His hind flippers are connected together by loose skin; on land they appear awkward, but in the water they give him great facilities of swimming. When displeased he can roar famously. His voice is not at all unlike that of a lion, only of course, not so loud. He is supposed to be about eight months old, and is certainly not so big as he will be. I make him out to be over 7 ft. in length. A full-grown walrus will measure some 16 ft. long, 10 ft. girth, and have 20 in. to 2 ft. of trunk, and a weight of over 3000 lb. Jemmy's blunt muzzle is the most peculiar part about him. It is full and fleshy, like the "mouffie" of the North American elk. The whole of its anterior surface is covered with strong whalebone-like whiskers; the uppermost rows of these are quite short; the lower are much more developed, being from 2 in. to 3 in. in length. The points of all these whiskers are directed downwards, and somewhat towards the median line of the nose. They look stiff, like wires, but to the touch are soft, like the wetted bristles on a hairbrush. I have now some walrus bristles before me—they are not from Jemmy's nose; when wetted in warm water they become quite soft. Their colour is exactly that of a tortoiseshell-comb, and they resemble the teeth of a comb in other ways. They are quite hollow (like a rabbit's tooth) one third of their length. As in the lion and seal, so also in the walrus these apparently rude organs of sensation are exceedingly sensitive. The conical cavity of the whisker is filled with a nervous pulp; in fact, one might almost say that the whisker is simply a horn cap upon the top of an exceedingly large nerve. In the skull the foramen, through which these "nose nerves" send their main telegraphic wires to the brain, is exceedingly large, larger even than in the lion.

The nostrils in the walrus are very peculiar—they have not, apparently, the same arrangement of the sphincter muscle that we find in the seal, hippopotamus, &c.; but a kind of lobular projection is thrust forward at the will of the animal; this projection accurately fits the nostril—there is one on each side—and acts like a cork in the neck of a bottle. When these curious doors are open one can look right into the nostrils, which are perfectly circular, and about big enough to admit a large cedar pencil. I am no disciple of the development theory, but keep to the path so plainly pointed out by the Bridge-water Treatise, by Paley, and by Ray and Denham, in their "Physico-Theology," and cannot help seeing in the peculiar mobile lip and whisker structure of the walrus an adaptation to the means of its existence, giving a clue to the determination of the food of the beast. By many authors it has been stated that the morse or walrus is herbivorous. I cannot think this is the case: for in its general structure it agrees more with the seals than with any herbivorous animal.

What, then, is the food of the walrus? Mr. Bartlett informs me that when Jemmy was first captured he sucked for two or three days and would eat nothing. The sailors then offered him strips of pork fat. Finding it, I suppose, not unlike his mother's milk, he devoured it readily; and from that time his daily rations on board ship consisted of from 7 lb. to 8 lb. of fat pork, besides which, the sailors occasionally added oatmeal and water, which they poured down his throat by means of a spout. When they got near Shetland, they found Jemmy's allowance pressing rather hard upon their own mess; so they got some mussels for him—gigantic fellows, 6 in. in length, and proportionately wide—and opening the shells, gave him the meat, which he much enjoyed. When Mr. Bartlett first took charge of him, at Dundee, the poor beast looked very thin, and the men agreed that he was going wrong. He then suggested fish diet; the men told him that they had tried fish, but Jemmy had spit them out and would not swallow them. Mr. Bartlett is sure that the reason of this is that Jemmy could not swallow a whole fish if it were larger than a herring. Nevertheless, Mr. Bartlett went

to the market and bought a large cod; he cut it into strips, free from bone, and was delighted to find that Jemmy would suck down these strips; in fact, he greedily devoured a whole cod, weighing at least 8 lb. Finding this to be the case, Mr. Bartlett took a good supply of cod, &c., on board the steamer and fed the hungry captive as he came along. Jemmy's sole diet now is fish; the fish only is given to him, and this is carefully cut up into strips and washed in water to avoid all danger from fish-hooks, as hooks in fish have proved the death not only of many seals, but also of the sea-bear. When he sucks in his food, it slips down with a loud "flop."

POLICE MANAGEMENT.

(To the Editor of the ILLUSTRATED TIMES.)

Sir,—It may fairly be presumed if a letter is worth printing it is worth answering, and therefore, not unmindful of your limited space, I ask your indulgence for the publication of a few comments upon the letter of your last week's correspondent, "A Constant Reader." His suggestion that "a change in the responsible department of the police force should be at once made," may be allowed to pass unchallenged.

But I rather think the public would require some information upon the subject before they would accept as a truth his assurance that "smart men, such as Adjutants of Line regiments, of four or six years' standing, would very soon organise a police force that would speedily stamp Fenianism out here and in all large towns." As an officer of more than five times "four years' standing," I have yet to learn that "intelligence, sharpness, and steadiness" would be secured to the force by "enrolling into the service steady men from the Army, who had served in the colonies, India, and at home." My experience teaches me, first, that the percentage of "steadiness" on the large number of Army men who join the force is deplorably small; and, secondly, that their peculiar "fitness" is suited to the force as "A Constant Reader" conceives it to be "now constituted," rather than to that improved organisation which his observations imply.

As to "strict discipline," I would tell "A Constant Reader" that that is the first great error which "Adjutants of Line" fall into when (luckily for themselves, but not always so for the public) they are appointed to a police command. And, furthermore, that the most astute and best working officers in the kingdom, as a rule, have scarcely a just of that military "intelligence and sharpness" recommended by "A Constant Reader," and which, so far as I have been able to discover, consists in nothing more than a smart appearance and a smarter salute.

Discipline and detection are, in truth, diametrically opposed to each other. The one seeks to accomplish a purpose by conventional rules, the other by circumstantial adaptations.

"A Constant Reader" has heard of or knows "four Irish female servants who, when they heard of the Clerkenwell outrage, exclaimed, 'Serve them right; pity it was not the Houses of Lords and Commons.'" No doubt their names have been sent to the detective police, and we may expect to hear of their apprehension before long. It has also been hinted to "A Constant Reader" that a brother of one of the fair Fenians was about joining the London police. And thereupon his simplicity becomes really amusing. "Surely," he exclaims, in a parenthesis of wonder, "in such times, surely it cannot be the case!" "A Constant Reader" should not require to be told that it "surely can be the case," unless he or "the Lady" mentioned should forward to Scotland-yard a friendly intimation of the would-be policeman's Fenian proclivities. For how is the Commissioner of Police to learn that, if not from those who know it?

The police is doubtless far from being a perfect organisation. But "Constant Readers" are evidently not the kind of men to effect the "consummation so devoutly to be wished." Such, at least, is the opinion of Dec. 30, 1867.

AN OCCASIONAL READER.

FAMINE IN ALGERIA.—A frightful famine, reminding one of that which devastated Oran last year, is at present ravaging Algeria. The *Echo of Oran* says:—"On the 3rd of December inst. the bodies of ten natives who died of hunger were found at Mascara. On the following day fourteen perished in a like manner; and on the 5th twenty-three of these poor creatures were carried to the cemetery by their co-religionists, who only submitted to this duty under blows. The total number of victims in three days was forty-seven."

THE POPE AND THE DRESS OF ROMAN LADIES.—The Pope has issued a decree against the use of profane language in Rome and the extravagant style of dress adopted by the Roman ladies. He complains that the Romans seem to forget that a church is the house of God, and says that "probably the cause of this evil is to be found in the conduct of the women, who when they go to church dress as if for a theatre or a fashionable promenade." He recommends as a remedy for this state of things that a number of respectable ladies should form themselves into a society with the object of "counteracting, by their example and influence, a luxury which produces the ruin of families, and leads to immorality." The Cardinal Vicar, in publishing this decree, announces that women with extravagant head-dresses shall in future not be admitted to the communion-table, and that any persons taking the name of God, the Madonna, or the saints in vain shall at once be dismissed from their employment; or, if the offence is committed in the street, be arrested by the police.

BREACH OF PROMISE OF MARRIAGE.—A case was heard in the Second-sides Court, Guildhall, on Monday—"Yardley v. Tyler"—on a writ of inquiry to assess the amount of damages in an action brought in one of the superior courts for a breach of promise of marriage, the defendant having allowed judgment to go by default. Damages were laid at £2000. The action was brought by the father of the plaintiff, who was a young lady under age, and consequently an infant in law. Mr. Yardley, who was a gentleman of independent means, spent a great deal of his time on the Continent; and it happened that his daughter, Miss Harriet Yardley, who was now in her nineteenth year, was a passenger by the Boulogne boat. She was put on board by a lady, and the defendant's sister undertook to take charge of the young lady during the trip. The defendant, who was stated to hold an excellent position as contractor to her Majesty's Board of Works, was present; and an introduction took place, which subsequently led to great intimacy between the two families, and ultimately to a marriage contract. After some time, however, the defendant broke off the match, on the ground of an apparent incompatibility of temper between him and the plaintiff. The jury awarded the plaintiff £750 damages.

THE VICTORIA CROSS.—The Queen has been graciously pleased to signify her intention to confer the decoration of the Victoria Cross on the undermentioned officers, whose claims to the same have been submitted for her Majesty's approval, for their gallant conduct in Bhootan, as recorded against their names—viz., Major William Spottiswoode Trevor and Lieutenant James Dundas, of the Royal (late Bengal) Engineers, for their gallant conduct at the attack on the blockhouse at Dewan Giri, in Bhootan, on April 30, 1865. Major-General Tombs, C.B., V.C., the officer in command at the time reports that a party of the enemy, from 180 to 200 in number, had barricaded themselves in the blockhouse in question, which they contrived to defend after the rest of the position had been carried, and the main body was in retreat. The blockhouse, which was loopholed, was the key of the enemy's position. Seeing no officer of the storming party near him, and being anxious that the place should be taken immediately, as any protracted resistance might have caused the main body of the Bhootas to rally, the British force having been fighting in a broiling sun on very steep and difficult ground for upwards of three hours, the General in command ordered these two officers to show the way into the blockhouse. They had to climb up a wall which was 14 ft. high, and then to enter a house, occupied by some 200 desperate men, head foremost through an opening not more than 2 ft. wide between the top of the wall and the roof of the blockhouse. Major-General Tombs states that, on speaking to the Sikh soldiers around him, and telling them in Hindostani to swarm up the wall, none of them responded to the call until these two officers had shown them the way, when they followed with the greatest alacrity. Both of them were wounded.

THE EARTHQUAKES AT ST. THOMAS.—The West Indian newspapers contain some interesting particulars in relation to the terrible earthquakes that recently devastated the island of St. Thomas when the destructive hurricane had ceased. After the tidal wave and the earthquakes had destroyed the town, for about five days bread was very dear, the one ounce loaf selling for 25c. The Government was compelled to take decisive steps so that selfish traders might not, by the impositions of heavy charges for articles of consumption, add unduly to the mere distress of the community. Finding several stores had been closed and the merchants refused to do business, probably with the intention of running prices up to an exorbitant figure, the chief authorities ordered out a detachment of 100 soldiers, and in due order opened the closed buildings, took away to the courthouse such necessities as the inhabitants needed, and had them sold there under proper supervision. Robberies were of daily occurrence in the town, and thieves were caught stripping copper from the wrecked vessels. On one occasion at night some scoundrels got up a sudden alarming cry, "The sea roller is coming!" Numbers of the inhabitants rushed wildly from their shelter, calling for mercy in the agony of fright. The authors of the alarm, thereupon went into the vacant dwellings and plundered everything they could find. The packet-ships were obliged to anchor off the town on account of the difficulty of navigating the harbour, because of the great number of wrecks. In many places were to be seen masts and other ship's gear above water, while all along the beach lay wrecks and portions of vessels. Every lighter in the harbour, as also every wharf round it, had gone to pieces. The damage done by the earthquakes was estimated at \$30,000—quite as great as that wrought by the hurricane. A ship of large tonnage, wrecked, was sold for 64 dollars. A 64-pounder gun was blown from the fort on which it was mounted, and, making a circle, carried away the mast of a vessel anchored some distance from the spot. The number of lives lost by the hurricane and earthquakes together is put down at 700—at least, so many corpses have been interred. A number of dead bodies in the last stage of putrefaction were gathered from the harbour. So great was the consternation that many persons had left for the Leeward Islands. Business in St. Thomas was almost suspended. Provisions, however, were no longer very scarce.

THE FENIANS.

ON Monday the five prisoners charged with the murder of the persons killed by the Fenian explosion in Corporation-lane, Clerkenwell, were again examined before Sir Thomas Henry, at Bow-street. They are the two Desmonds, Allen, English, and Anne Justice. A great deal of evidence was taken, all tending to establish the criminality of the prisoners, who eventually were again remanded. The case against the Desmonds, English, O'Keefe, and Mullany in respect to the charge of treason-felony, was also strengthened by the additional testimony of the police-officers, Bunce and Hallam, and the inquiry was then adjourned for a week. Burke and Casey were again brought up at Bow-street last Saturday, and with them a man named Melady, alias Shaw, who is charged with being concerned with them in purchasing arms in England, and helping in the rising in Ireland. There was nothing very new in the evidence adduced. All the prisoners were remanded.

The authorities seem to have had reason to believe that an attack would be made upon Woolwich Arsenal in the course of Friday night week. Telegraphic messages were sent there from various departments of the Government, informing those in charge of the arsenal of the mediocrity of the attack. Troops were at once marched into the arsenal and dockyard, and every preparation made to receive whoever might come in hostile fashion. The water police were armed. It is stated that two vessels suspected to be Fenian ships, came up opposite the arsenal, and, on being hailed, could give no very clear account of themselves. They remained off the arsenal for some time, and then dropped down the river again, watched by the river police. This is the story as it comes to us. It is very strange, however, if the statement be true, that the authorities did not make a close examination of these vessels. The guard on the arsenal is strictly kept up, and it is stated that the powder in the magazines along the bank of the river is to be removed in order to avoid the necessity of guarding the magazines.

Another arrest has been made in London. This time it is a man who has been employed in the Chartered Gasworks, in Central-street, St. Luke's. It is understood that the charge against him is treason-felony. A mischievous act—if not something worse—was done in the Commercial-road East on Sunday night. A woman saw three men pouring something into the receiving-box of the Eastern District Post Office. She gave an alarm, and the men ran off. The box was examined, and several matches were found in it, and it was discovered that the liquid which the men had been pouring in was nitric acid. Fortunately, the letters were not much injured.

Last Saturday evening there was an alarm raised at Weymouth of an attack on the convict prison at Portland. An alarm gun was fired from the prison, and a messenger was sent in hot haste to Weymouth for the military, who were instantly sent off. It turned out that the alarm was a false one. Various suspicious circumstances have occurred in connection with the prison lately, and a particular watch was kept over it. Last Saturday the prisoners were marched from their work to their cells earlier than usual. A little later the authorities of the prison heard firing at sea, and, as they had been warned of the possibility of an attack from the sea, they took the precautions we have mentioned.

It is said that the affair at the Warrington Gasworks will be proved to have been a hoax, and that the name of the perpetrator is known. Several Irishmen have been dismissed from their employment at the work in consequence of the occurrence, all of whom protest their innocence.

Eight notorious Fenians have been arrested at Merthyr Tydvil, some of whom made a desperate resistance.

In all the provincial towns special constables are being sworn in and the utmost precautions taken against any Fenian designs.

Her Majesty has taken a step which will tend greatly to calm public apprehensions. It has been stated that extra guards have been put by sea and on land over Osborne, the Queen's residence in the Isle of Wight. Recently the inhabitants of Cowes forwarded an address to her Majesty expressing their regret that these precautions should be necessary, and offering to do what they could, either as special constables or in any other way, to assure her Majesty's safety. Colonel Grey, in the Queen's name, tells the people of Cowes that her Majesty does not feel and has not felt any alarm for her own safety, but she has allowed the extra guards to be placed over Osborne at the request of her Government. To the Government therefore she refers the offer of Cowes, thanking the people for it very heartily. That her Majesty has no apprehensions whatever is sufficiently shown by the manner in which she walks and drives about the island without any guard.

From Dublin we have news of a singularly atrocious act. Packets addressed to some of the authorities had been posted. Some suspicion seems to have been entertained in reference to these packets; and one, while being examined by a policeman, burst and injured his hands very much. Fortunately, no other damage was done. A martello tower at Foaty, near Queenstown, has been surprised by a party of armed men, and plundered of the arms, ammunition, &c., it contained. Two artillerymen, with their families, were the only inhabitants of the tower. A daring act of the Fenians is reported from Cork. About nine o'clock on Monday morning, while people were everywhere about, eight men entered the shop of Mr. Allport, a gunmaker. They overpowered those who were waiting in the shop, and coolly marched off with a large quantity of arms and ammunition. They seem to have got clear away. This is a more daring affair than the one at Foaty. There the place attacked is sequestered; Mr. Allport's shop, on the contrary, is in a leading thoroughfare in Cork. Mr. Sullivan, editor of the *Nation*, and several other persons, are being prosecuted for taking part in the late funeral procession in Dublin. Another Fenian outrage has taken place in the county of Cork. The residence of Mr. Charles Mathew, brother of the late Father Mathew, at Lehen, was attacked by a party of armed men. The inmates, in resisting, fired upon the assailants, and one of the ruffians was so severely wounded that on their retreat his comrades were obliged to carry him. We trust the example of Mr. Mathew will be generally followed—nothing will sooner put an end to these outrages than the discovery that they cannot be perpetrated without personal danger.

A "LADIES' NOSE PROTECTOR"—a case, lined with fur, to be affixed to the nasal appendage—is one of the latest Parisian novelties.

CRYSTAL PALACE.—A ballot on an amendment moved by Mr. Liddard at the recent general meeting of the Crystal Palace Company—viz., "That no free admissions be granted to admit non-shareholders to the palace and grounds on Sundays," was taken at the palace yesterday. The result was as follows:—In favour of the amendment, 289 voters, 20,087 votes; against the amendment, 255 voters, 4853 votes; majority for the amendment, 34 voters, 15,234 votes.

MR. PUNCH'S ALLOCATION TO MANKIND.—Brethren and Persons,—Here we are again, and how do you do at the beginning of another new year? I am quite well, I thank you kindly. Nevertheless, Brethren and Persons, it cannot be denied that there are many things which we must regard as misfortunes. Oysters (I hope you all like oysters) are much too dear. The old Opera House (apropos of oysters) has been burned down. We have only an armed truce with the cabmen. The walrus is dead. So are the dear little hippopotami, that were like the knights of chess. The miscreants who mend the roads won't roll them. Women of the inferior class have not learnt from their betters to discard Dorothy Draggletail dresses, and they be-plaster you with mud as they come into an omnibus. Whistlers sit for Peterborough. Postmen are insufficiently paid. If they should strike? There is very little holly this winter. Music-hall slang songs are sung by ladies and gentlemen. The street-organ still rages, unstamped out. Ritualism is rampant. A good cigar is frightfully expensive. Sole matrimony. The porters on the Underground Railway will not sound their H. Bays of Dover assiduously notable with addresses. Young ladies write novels which make bearded men blush. Napoleon is arming 1,200,000 soldiers. They have spotted the beautiful front of the Travellers' Club. Scotch bairnies are refused sweets all through a four hours' service. Irish stew is rarely made good. Welsh rabbits are less digestible than ever. People who had better hold their tongues—talk. Smart stockjobbers make a row. Thomas Carlyle has published nothing lately. You know who I mean has published a great deal. Parliament meets in February—the only compensation (I admit a grand one) is My Essence. Half-crowns have not been called in. The Christmas-box extortion is not made felony. Bumble is still blatant. Crossing-sweepers beg. Shaving is incompatible with comfort, and soup with moustaches. Few servants can boil eggs: stush or stone. Boys learn Greek instead of French. Gas is bad, and worst on Sundays.—Punch.

LAW AND CRIME.

On a case brought before Mr. Mansfield at the Marylebone Police Court, a question arose upon the construction of a clause in the new Metropolitan Streets Act as to cab fares. The Act ordains that for a cab taken off the stand the fare shall be 1s. The plaintiff, a cabman, charged 1s. 6d. for a distance admitted to be within two miles. Mr. Mansfield's interpretation of the statute (section 26) was that "it was solely intended to raise the fares for short distances, in the case of cabs taken from the stand, to 1s. instead of 6d." That is to say, no cab can be hired from a stand at a less fare than 1s. This is certainly the way in which the new law is to be interpreted. But it seems that "the Police Commissioners" (i.e., Sir Richard Mayne) have issued a book of fares in which the Act is differently interpreted, so as to enable cabmen to charge not only the customary 6d. per mile, but an extra 6d. for the first from the stand. Mr. Mansfield said he did not impute blame to the cabman, as he (the magistrate) thought that the driver had been misled by an oversight in the book issued by authority of the Police Commissioners. Another "oversight"! How many more? When the first and second lists of cab fares were issued by authority, the public was so far considered that the books were to be purchased from the ordinary stationers. We have not yet seen a single copy of the recent edition exposed for sale, although we are aware that they are supplied to the cabdrivers, whom we learn upon magisterial authority that they misled.

An "exciting scene at the West-End" is reported. It appears that a crowd of two or three hundred ruffians chased a cow through St. James's-street and along Park-place into a "no thoroughfare," and thence again through Ryder-street, Duke-street, and Pall-mall into St. James's Park. The chase was continued for twenty minutes, during which several persons were injured, and no policeman was to be found to put an end to the dangerous sport.

The news from Cork as to the surprise of a gun-maker's shop ought certainly to awaken police vigilance in regard to similar establishments in our metropolis and chief manufacturing towns. During an hour's walk about town, from St. James's Palace to Temple-bar, one might reckon at least a score or two of débris which could be sacked by a *coup de main*. It is really almost comical to see two sentries watching a hoarding opposite St. James's Palace while stores of revolvers, breech-loaders, and ammunition stand within a hundred yards utterly unguarded, save by the haphazard policeman; and to know, moreover, that, no matter what the alarm, neither of the redcoats dare stir from his allotted post. Why should not the military be utilised in some way as a patrol in these dangerous times instead of being confined as prisoners in their barracks or doomed to freeze in sentry-boxes? It is satisfactory to find that the special constables are rapidly organising, and that our volunteers, not as volunteers but as drilled and organised citizens, are ready to be in the front on occasion of danger. Should they ever be called out, it must not be forgotten that hesitation is the worst policy. Let them remember the words of Napoleon when, as *sous-officier* of artillery, he had blown the Reign of Terror to atoms with his long-prescribed "whiff of grape-shot," at the Church of St. Roch, he said, "It is false to say we fired at first with blank cartridge. It would have been a waste of life!" It is, no doubt, hard for peaceful Englishmen to realise the peril imminent from conspirators who avow assassination, theft, and incendiarism as their own peculiar mode of warfare; but all these are but means to the achievement of an open collision in which stern determination will be an imperative necessity.

A correspondence, well worthy the attention of military commanding officers, is now proceeding in the newspapers. It refers to the manner in which money-lenders victimise young officers of the Army. It appears that an officer is no sooner gazetted than he receives circulars from the usurious fraternity. They do not object even to lend to minors, but rather speculate upon the discredit attaching to a plea of infancy. A moderate sum is at first advanced (upon a bill), and the money-lender does not care about its punctual repayment. From time to time he accepts interest and bonuses upon renewals, until at length the victim not infrequently finds himself, after payment of more than the sum originally advanced, still indebted to a far greater amount. The money-lender in such case has a far greater "pull" than that afforded by law to an ordinary creditor. When the time arrives for him to clench his claws, he threatens in default of payment an exposure to the commanding officer. We have known a case of this kind in which a young gentleman of good family, under age, serving as Lieutenant in a Line regiment in the Crimea, was thus brought to bay by a usurer, whose claim he was wholly unable to meet. The missive containing the long-threatened exposure was at length dispatched, as a last resort, by the creditor to the Colonel. It was not the only one of the kind. The Colonel was heard to speak of the defaulter as a "black sheep," and the next mail brought intelligence that the young officer, having been sent out on a hopeless duty, was brought back dead, with a bullet-hole through his skull. Nay, more terrible yet, this news arrived in a letter from a brother officer, himself the spy of the creditor—forced to accept this humiliating and shameful position through having placed himself in the power of the money-lender! This is no fictitious tale. We have seen written evidence of the facts, and also of the sad truth that this espionage among brother officers is so far from being infrequent that it forms an ingredient in the money-lender's business. Yet, these bill-discounters are not only tolerated by superior officers but received into military society, and even permitted to sit at the mess-table. It is now but a few years ago that a number of young officers in camp, after a sufficiency of wine, conceived the factious idea of hanging one of the capitalists, who had been received as a visitor. They carried out the notion so far as all but to strangle the fellow, who nevertheless, doubtless for sufficient reasons, found it to his interest to make no complaint to the authorities, civil or military.

MONEY OPERATIONS OF THE WEEK.

The transactions in Home Securities have been only to a moderate extent, and prices have had a dropping tendency. Consols, for money, have been done at 92 to 92½; for the Account, 92½; for New Three per Cents, 91½; and for the Account, 91½. Bank Stock has been done at 220 to 241. For Indian Securities the market has been less firm, and prices

have been rather easier.—India Five per Cents, 110½ to 111½; Ditto Four per Cents, 100 to 100½; Ropes Paper, 103 to 104; and 108 to 109; and India Five per Cents, 103 to 104; and 108 to 109. The market for Consols has been quiet, and prices have been rather easier. The minimum quotation for both places was fixed at 1s. 10½. The market for Consols has been quiet, and prices have been rather easier. The minimum quotation for both places was fixed at 1s. 10½. The market for Consols has been quiet, and prices have been rather easier. The minimum quotation for both places was fixed at 1s. 10½.

At the half-yearly meeting of the Bank of New Zealand at Auckland, on the 31st of October last, a dividend of 10 per cent. was declared. The available profits amounted to £21,161-18-6, of which were required for payment of the dividend, and balance, leaving £1,611 to be carried forward to the next account.

Foreign Securities have been doing, and an average decline of 1 per cent. has taken place in prices. Portuguese scrip has marked a 4 per cent. decline, 1865, has been done at 7½ to 7½; 1866, at 7½ to 7½; 1867, at 7½ to 7½; 1868, at 7½ to 7½; 1869, at 7½ to 7½; 1870, at 7½ to 7½; 1871, at 7½ to 7½; 1872, at 7½ to 7½; 1873, at 7½ to 7½; 1874, at 7½ to 7½; 1875, at 7½ to 7½; 1876, at 7½ to 7½; 1877, at 7½ to 7½; 1878, at 7½ to 7½; 1879, at 7½ to 7½; 1880, at 7½ to 7½; 1881, at 7½ to 7½; 1882, at 7½ to 7½; 1883, at 7½ to 7½; 1884, at 7½ to 7½; 1885, at 7½ to 7½; 1886, at 7½ to 7½; 1887, at 7½ to 7½; 1888, at 7½ to 7½; 1889, at 7½ to 7½; 1890, at 7½ to 7½; 1891, at 7½ to 7½; 1892, at 7½ to 7½; 1893, at 7½ to 7½; 1894, at 7½ to 7½; 1895, at 7½ to 7½; 1896, at 7½ to 7½; 1897, at 7½ to 7½; 1898, at 7½ to 7½; 1899, at 7½ to 7½; 1900, at 7½ to 7½; 1901, at 7½ to 7½; 1902, at 7½ to 7½; 1903, at 7½ to 7½; 1904, at 7½ to 7½; 1905, at 7½ to 7½; 1906, at 7½ to 7½; 1907, at 7½ to 7½; 1908, at 7½ to 7½; 1909, at 7½ to 7½; 1910, at 7½ to 7½; 1911, at 7½ to 7½; 1912, at 7½ to 7½; 1913, at 7½ to 7½; 1914, at 7½ to 7½; 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